

Recreation Department Update

The Recreation Commission met on June 10 and 17, 2020, via Zoom to discuss Stow's parks, in particular, Pine Bluff Recreation Area and the states guidelines for opening.

Pine Bluff Recreation Area will be closed for 4th of July Holiday: On the 4th of July 2019, there were many large gatherings on the beach and in the pavilion. Given the guidelines of social distancing and the fact that we cannot staff the facility, the decision has been made to close for the holiday. The gates will be closed and locked. The police will be notified.

Pine Bluff Beach: The Recreation Commission decided that, while our parks will remain open for now, **we will not be able to fully open the beach.**

The Stow Recreation Department is mainly self-funded. Due the ongoing pandemic, we have lost the revenue from spring sports and summer programs, including Camp Stow. Our financial situation, in addition to the stringent guidelines set by the State of Massachusetts and the Board of Health means we will not be able to staff Pine Bluff's beach in the same way we have done in the past.

- **There will not be lifeguards on duty.**
- **The bathrooms and changing rooms will remain closed.**
- **Amenities:** Basketball Court, Volleyball Court, Bocce, Horseshoes, Gaga, picnic tables and benches **are all open. THEY ARE NOT SANITIZED. USE AT YOUR OWN RISK.**

Complaints:

Due to the fact that many surrounding towns have closed their beaches or limited them to residents only, Pine Bluff is experiencing a steep increase of, not only Stow residents, but also, visitors from other towns such as Maynard, Sudbury, Hudson and Marlborough. While we love to see people of all ages enjoying the outdoors, there have been numerous complaints from area residents of large groups remaining at the park well after dark. The complaints have included excessive noise, trespassing, fireworks, alcohol and drug use. **However, the biggest problem by far has been litter and overall**

disrespect for our park. While the Recreation Department is committed to keeping Pine Bluff, and all of Stow's parks clean and beautiful, we need your help.

Ways that you can help keep our parks open:

- Please only use the park when it is open: **From Dawn until Dusk**
- Although Stow's parks have always been carry-in/carry-out, we have installed a dumpster that will be emptied weekly. Please take waste with you or put it in the dumpster.
- If anyone needs community volunteer hours, consider doing some park clean-up! We will be happy to verify your hours. Please call 978-637-2984 or email recreation@stow-ma.gov.
- No Vandalism! Leave the park in better shape than you find it!
- Do not Remove Signs
- No Alcohol or Smoking is Allowed
- Please wear your face masks and/or maintain proper social distance.

Thank you in advance for your help and concern! Stay healthy!