

HOLLIS RECREATION COMMISSION

July 23, 2026

Attendees: Erica Crea, Dave Belanger, Jake Balfour, Emilee Sattler, Holly Babcock, Will Walker, Michael Coulombe.

The meeting opened at 6:31pm.

MOTION by Dave Belanger to accept the minutes from the January 15th, 2026 meeting.

Seconded by Holly Babcock.

APPROVED 5-0-0.

New Business

1. Field Usage Application Approval/Denial

An application was submitted for a fundraiser on behalf of Hollis resident Thomas Lafontaine, who is battling leukemia. They would like to rent the track on November 7 to sponsor the "Run for TOMorrow." They anticipate 100 to 300 people will attend.

Unfortunately, the Hollis Art Show is on the same date at the Lawrence Barn and there is not enough parking for both events. In respect of the applicant's time needed for publicizing, instead of requesting that the applicant return next month with a new date, the Commission pivoted to preapproving alternative dates.

November was seen as problematic as it may snow, and the track nor parking lot would not be plowed. Also, the port-a-potties are removed on November 1, so the applicant would be burdened with additional costs to bring in winterized port-a-potties.

MOTION by Dave Belanger to permit Run for TOMorrow to be held on one of the following dates: October 10, October 24, or October 31.

Seconded by Holly Babcock.

APPROVED 5-0-0.

2. Tennis / Basketball Resurface Request for Quote

The Commission reviewed the RFQ and found no issues. Erica will prepare to publish.

3. Hardy North Irrigation, brush cut back due to looking for irrigation boxes, looking to install new grass area and rip rap

To head off the irrigation box issues that Recreation is dealing with elsewhere on the Town fields, the Commission discussed how to protect the irrigation boxes at Hardy North. Adding a strip of grass was quoted at \$1,905 and installing rip rap behind the grass as a second layer of protection would be approximately \$12,000.

The Commission debated the cost, then determined that while the land under discussion is next to Hardy West, it is too far to impact it directly. Thus, it should be handled as a separate issue.

MOTION by Dave Belanger to allocate up to \$1,905 for seeding a strip of grass 265 feet by 15 feet on Hardy North, behind the irrigation boxes. Seconded by Holly Babcock.
APPROVED 5-0-0.

4. OHD parking on the fields

The Commission discussed protecting the baseball field that is currently fenced in. There was a concern that the significant financial investment made by both Baseball and the Commission could be damaged by vehicle parking. The Commission recommended that the temporary fencing be left up through Old Home Days. Erica will approach OHD with alternative parking locations.

5. E-Bike Policy for Select Board

The Commission reviewed vandalism caused by E-Bikes. They agreed that due to their increased power, E-Bikes are impacting the fields much more than pedal bikes. Erica will put up signs and request that the Select Board extend the unauthorized motorized vehicle prohibition to include E-Bikes, E-Trikes, E-Scooters, and similar things not yet manufactured.

6. July Newsletter sent out/posted

Erica was happy with the feedback from the July newsletter and plans to publish more monthly updates. Members of the Commission were pleased to hear that it was done with minimal time and on free software.

7. Select Board Agenda Items recap from July 13th meeting

The Select Board reaffirmed their desire to approve Rec Event applications. Based on the Board's feedback, Erica created an application for the Commission to review.

The Commission discussed noise ordinances, then reviewed how field walkthroughs are conducted with the applicant. The pre-walkthrough, which is included in the application cost, includes flagging irrigation heads and paint striping land that should be avoided.

MOTION by Emilee Sattler to accept the Event application, with the changes for field pre-walkthroughs.

Seconded by Dave Belanger.

APPROVED 4-0-0.

8. Recap this month's programming and August programming

Tennis camp was canceled due to no registrations, and the Brazilian Arts soccer camp ran with one fewer field. While pay to play participation went up, there was a net loss of anticipated revenue.

Around 100 participants showed up to tie dye. This will become an annual July event.

9. New programming ideas

The Commission spent time brainstorming.

Old Business

10. Hardy West/LWC Grant revisit

The RFP is being prepared for an estimated August 3rd release. This will give Recreation time to present the results to Budget.

It will include requirements for reporting the cost of the entire project, plus itemized breakdowns. A new addition to the RFP is seeding the ground where the tennis courts are to be built. This will protect against soil erosion until it is time to install the courts.

Also, an RFP was added to drill a new well.

Erica fielded questions about applying for a LWC grant to help fund Hardy West. This was examined by the Commission at the beginning of the analysis and, while it was dismissed at that time for being too restrictive, the Commission agreed to review it again.

Erica will reexamine the public use provision, whether the town can charge for use, and close or deny the lands for reseeding and/or the rotational resting of fields. Also, she will ask if any other towns have tried this approach and what were the results, then report back.

11. Horse Ring Irrigation

Erica met with employees of the town, as well as members of Hollis Area Equestrians, to discuss how best to spend the \$15,000 allocated for irrigating the horse ring. The town is facing water issues and so will not allow new connections.

The irrigation meeting members determined that the most cost-effective solution would be to install a 1,000-gallon tank next to the shed. It would be initially filled by the Fire Department. In later years and after additional infrastructure was built, it could topped off throughout the summer from one or more field wells.

Erica will present the idea to the Hollis Area Equestrians.

12. Permanent Fence Waugaman

Nope. The deed does not allow permanent fences.

MOTION by Emilee Sattler to close the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Seconded by Dave Belanger.

APPROVED 4-0-0.

Submitted by Jake Balfour.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 20, 2026 in the Town Hall Community Room at 6:30 PM.