Northwood Recreation Commission

May 2, 2023

Northwood School Library

AGENDA

Chairman Frye called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

Present: Matt Frye, Dave Ruth, Wade Sauls, Justin Miller, Beth Boudreau

Staff Present: Scott Blewitt & Jessy Leblanc

* Approve minutes of 4/18 meeting:
  + Mr. Ruth motioned to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Miller seconded. Motion approved 5-0 with no discussion.
* Election of Officers:
  + Mr. Ruth self-nominated for chair. Mr. Miller seconded. Motion approved 5-0
  + Mr. Ruth nominated Mr. Miller for vice chair. Mr. Frye seconded. Motion passed 4-0-1 with Mr. Miller abstaining.
* Review of Updated Maps
  + John Newman from NH Land Consultants shared updated maps of the recreation facility based on feedback in the prior meeting. The committee requested several further changes including shrinking the rectangular sports field and routing the access road between the playground and the field. Mr. Newman will make another round of revisions and bring updated maps to the committee for review in June.
* Vision of rights and responsibilities to be shared with BOS
  + The following rights and responsibilities are requested of the Board of Selectmen. These requests are made with each item having been discussed and gained a majority of support from the voting members of the committee.
  + Setting the strategic direction of the recreation department. This includes 3-5 year priority areas as well as key performance indicators to measure progress.
  + Setting policy for recreation programs and facilities. This is as opposed to recommending policy to the BOS for adoption.
  + Advise the BOS on future appointments to the recreation commission. But, the power to appoint will remain with the BOS.
  + Advise the town administrator and BOS on the hiring of new recreation directors and assistant directors. This would include a representative on the hiring committee as well as sharing the resumes of all finalists with the commission members.
  + Advise the recreation director in the formation of the department budget as well as the CIP.
  + Approval of expenditures out of the revolving fund over $5,000
* Director Updates
  + Food truck festival is planned for this weekend. Everything looks generally ready to go. The electrical meter has been installed, and remaining wiring should be completed before Saturday’s event.
  + DPW is aware that there is a lot of brush and multiple broken picnic tables that need to be removed from the rec facility.
  + Soccer numbers look great.
  + Town wide yard sale is planned for June 3
  + Fishing derby is planned for May 13 at Saddleback Campground
  + June Jam is scheduled for June 24
  + The department desperately needs summer help including field mowing and beach attendants.
* Member Updates
  + Mr. Ruth:
    - Confirmed that the Adopt a Spot program is up and running
    - Requests more signage at parks
    - Requests more picnic tables at parks
      * Mr. Blewitt announced that six new picnic tables had been ordered and received. After the food truck festival, they will be dispersed throughout the town’s recreation areas.
    - The planters that were created as a CBNA senior project are at the fields and look great.
    - What is happening with the baseball/softball field
      * Mr. Blewitt informed the commission that the Epsom softball league will be excavating the softball infield and replacing it with a skinned infield.
  + Mr. Miller:
    - Requests monthly financial reports at meetings
    - Hoping that the BOS will provide greater clarity to the role of the recreation commission.
    - It is important to hold onto those who are willing to volunteer their time and energy to the town. The process for joining committees in Northwood feels onerous.
  + Mr. Sauls:
    - Please ensure that the water line is 2” pipe to allow for adequate water flow for irrigation.
  + Ms. Boudreau:
    - Has been working on 250th carnival games. Will reach out to rising freshmen to generate volunteer support.
  + Mr. Frye:
    - Thank you to the members of the commission to serve as chair.
  + Adjournment
    - Mr. Miller motioned to adjourn. Mr. Sauls seconded. Motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Ruth dissenting. Meeting adjourned at 8:07