



TOWN OF NORTHWOOD, NH
RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
August 1, 2023

Commission Members Present: Justin Miller, Wade Sauls, Dave Ruth, T.J. Therriault

Town Staff Present: None

Members of the Public Present: John Newman

6:20pm Meeting called to order

Approval of June Meeting Minutes

June Meeting Minutes: Mr. Ruth motion to approve the June minutes. Mr. Sauls seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Election of Vice Chairman

Mr. Miller discussed the need for electing a Vice Chairman to lead meetings in the absence of the Chairman. Mr. Sauls volunteered to be elected as the Vice Chairman. Mr. Miller motioned to elect a Vice Chairman. Mr. Sauls seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

BOS Meeting Discussion

General discussion by R.C. members about the comments provided by the B.O.S. included:

- There being a need for a one-way road around the upper field
- Emergency entrance/exit needs to be identified
- The B.O.S. is not granting policy approvals to the R.C.
- The B.O.S. is retaining approvals for revolving fund expenditures in excess of \$5,000; these approvals need to go through the T.A. and the B.O.S. The R.C. is requesting that the initial recommendation & approval of these expenditure be granted to the R.C. prior to being submitted to the T.A. & B.O.S. for final approval.
- The R.C. is requesting approval of sports team policies and feels that the B.O.S. is confused with regard to this request.
- The R.C. members present elected to table the remaining conversations on this agenda item until the remaining members are present.

Members discussed the priorities for the Rt 4 Rec Field Master Plan/Layout. Priorities were listed as follows:

1. Have plans reviewed. Identify what site work would need to be completed. Contact contractors to obtain estimated costs for site work.



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2. Water distribution for irrigating/maintain the turf on the fields once established. Weigh out options for aboveground sprinklers vs. belowground irrigation.
3. Establish parking
4. Build-out combo baseball/soccer field
5. Build basketball court

Issues with current location of proposed basketball court were discussed.

Facilities Discussion

Mr. Miller inquired about a list of all of the facilities and properties that were under the control of the Northwood Rec including the beaches, Rec Fields, boat ramps, etc. Mr. Miller expressed that the R.C. and the Northwood Rec should be focusing on all of these sites, not just the Rec Field. The members present listed the following sites that the Northwood Rec may be responsible for the care of:

- Rt 4 Rec Fields
- Northwood Lake Beach
- Northwood Lake Boat Ramp
- Bennett's Bridge Beach
- Mary Waldron Beach & Boat Ramp
- Lucas Pond Beach/Public Area/Boat Launch (cooperative effort w/ NH Fish & Game)
- Community Center (135 Main St)
- Adopt-a-Spots

Recreation Commission Volunteer Participation

Mr. Miller noted that the Rec Dept (Scott B. - Director) is looking for / needs more participation from the R.C. for volunteering for upcoming events.

It was discussed that the R.C. needs more communication from the Director on upcoming events. The R.C. would like the Director to provide a schedule of events with the anticipated needs from the R.C., which should be updated at each monthly meeting.

Mr. Therriault stated that he would like to volunteer to be the point of contact and run the ski program again this year. Gunstock should be contacted before the end of the month to inquire about the upcoming season.



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Warrant Article Expenditure

The R.C. members present elected to table the conversation on this agenda item until Mr. Frye and Mr. Blewitt are present.

Town Recreation Policies

The R.C. requested all of the current policies pertaining the Recreation Department that the Town has on file. The B.O.S. & T.A. only provided two policies to the R.C.: Parks & Recreation Areas – Article II – Town Beach Regulations (Ordinance No. 10-07) and Chapter 102 – Parks & Recreation Areas – Article I – Northwood Athletic Fields.

Mr. Sauls and Mr. Ruth both recalled that there were other policies that were reviewed and updated by the R.C. including one related to Team/Player Sportsmanship and one related to Team/Player Selections.

Director Updates

The Director was not present during this meeting.

Mr. Ruth provided the following comments/questions for the Director:

- The Beanhole Bash fire pit hole at the Rt. 4 fields needs to be filled and is a safety hazard.
- The electrical at the field is not complete and asked will it will be done.
- The sign at the entrance to the Rt 4 fields is blocked with vegetation and is difficult to see when approaching and the vegetation is a hazard when exiting.
- Dogs should not be allowed on the fields.
- There are parking issue at the beaches, which are overcrowded.

Future Agenda Items

Policy

Field Improvements

Facilities

Warrant Article and Budget (Capital & Revolving)

Timeline of Events/Activities

Strategic Plan

Recreation Department Needs



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Mr. Sauls motioned to adjourn. Mr. Miller seconded. Motion passed 4-0
Meeting adjourned 7:45pm