

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: [12/7/2021](#)

Approval: [revised](#)

Recorded By: [Ashley Martin](#)

Submitted By: [Janice Coffill](#)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE – JANICE COFFILL, ASHLEY MARTIN, DAKOTA NEWMAN, MATT FRYE, SCOTT BLEWITT

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:

Meeting Schedule Start: [6:30 pm](#)

Meeting Actual Start: [6:30](#)

Meeting Scribe: [Janice Coffill](#)

[Previous meeting minutes approved](#)

Tree lighting event: The tree lighting and Christmas parade went very well. The Northwood Fire and Rescue and the Northwood Police Department made the parade a big hit with the community. We discussed changing the route for next December, as requested by some community members. We will try to arrange for the Coe Brown Chorus and Band to participate next year. New lights were added to the Christmas Tree in front of town hall for the event. Required rental of a truck, as commission members were unable to reach top lights with a pole. A monetary donation by Emily McGrail allowed the recreation department to purchase Candy canes filled with M&M's for the event. We were able to borrow a Santa mailbox for letters to Santa and discussed purchasing one for next year. Commission members, Mr. & Mrs. Farrell and Northwood Congregational Church will be assisting with replies to the children's letters to Santa. Recreation Department supplied note paper and envelopes. Chesley Library requested a new book drop box. Scott Blewitt will reach out to see if they are interested in donating to the recreation department and we could paint to make a new Santa mailbox. Scott Blewitt borrowed spot lights and sound system for the event and asked if we might consider purchasing both at this time, but commission members discussed holding off, due to budget concerns. Scott Blewitt thanked Santa & Mrs. Claus (Mark & Mary-Ann Farrell) for the donation of their time and assistance with a gift of maple syrup. Commission members suggested a Thank you note to Judy Royce of Sign Dreamers of NH for the donation of the festive signs used at town hall for the event. Discussion of planting a new tree for event, as current tree in front of town hall has lost most of its needles. Some discussion of moving the event, if it becomes larger. Also discussed moving the fire trucks away from the party, to allow more room. Lights 200\$ at Target. Taken out of events budget.

Basketball: Basketball program continues. Masks are required at the school at this time.

Games will start in January, along with 1st-2nd grade. Volunteers are managing the moving of desks to allow for use of the gym at Northwood School. All must be put back in place after each practice/game session. Currently using the gym, Weds and Fri/Sat. Younger ages were able to have a boys and girls team. Fewer girls in the middle school, they are playing on the boy's teams. Were able to find enough volunteer coaches for all levels.

Winter Programming : The Commission discussed holding the Ice Fishing Derby for 2022 on 2/26/2021 from 8-12. Requested that the recreation department purchase new ice fishing traps, as the old ones are not useable anymore. Ashley Martin will contact Coe Brown and the Northwood Congregational Church for permission to use the parking area by Harvey Lake. The Fire Department asked about having a paid concession at the event. We will revisit this at our next meeting. Amy Spainhower has provided photography in the past. Will request Coe-Brown volunteers closer to the events.

Scott Blewitt discussed holding some Arts & Crafts events for preschoolers, school age and Seniors in The Center School Building during the month of January. Beach coordinator will be home from college, and is willing to hold some classes. He has contacted a handyman to work on the space, to allow for classes to be held safely.

We discussed the idea of holding a Winter Family Fun Day at the Route 4 Fields area if there is enough snow.

Ice Rink: Scott Blewitt asked about a town ice rink as there had been some inquiries. At this time, the commission members do not feel this can be done well or properly. Previous rink at the fields was unable to hold water due to leaks and lack of a flat surface. Additionally, frequent rain and fluctuating temperatures the past few winters have made it difficult to keep ice. We did discuss having an ice skating party this winter if the weather is cooperative, either by contacting Saddleback Campground or using one of the lakes in town.

Equipment Swap Event: Scott Blewitt discussed holding an Equipment Swap event in spring and fall. Larger priced items could be sold on consignment with some percentage to the recreation department.

Center School Rehab: Scott Blewitt has the name of a local contractor and will move forward with some minor repairs, in preparation for the arts and crafts classes.

Budget: There is currently \$31257.81 in revolving fund and \$35294.00 remaining in the Recreation Department budget. \$424.00 was spent on Letters from Santa stationary and other items for Tree lighting event, including new lights on the Tree. Have not yet received invoice from truck rental to put up lights. We discussed purchases for the end of the year including cases of field lining paint and some items for Center School fixes.

Field/Playground Update: Matt Frye received a call from State and met them at playground area. There is concern about the pallet of cement still left on site, as it was in front of handicap entrance. Scott Blewitt will check with Chris Brown to be sure it is removed. We will focus on egress grading and entrance to playground areas in the spring. Janice Coffill received the screws necessary for handle installation on the equipment and those have been delivered to Scott Blewitt ,along with the handles for installation. Janice Coffill has been in touch with Premier Park to discuss ongoing issues with the Fire Truck structure. They have indicated that

new panels have been ordered for the structure but there is a lead time associated with the material needed. The panels on the structure were incorrectly cut and do not meet the measurements required. It was suggested that the structure be roped off until we can have this fixed. We discussed option of putting a kiosk type sign in the area. We discussed options for the renovation of the upper field area and the options presented thus far.

Friends of Northwood Rec purchased additional equipment for the lower playground. Will arrive in the Spring. Selectman approved warrant article for field. In discussion with contractors to have plan in place, if approved. Additional playground equipment from Friends of Rec put towards in-kind donation from grant.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30

To Do items:

Scott Blewitt:

discuss library drop box with Donna from Chesley Library

Work with handyman for necessary repairs to the center school

Arts and Craft programming

Ensure concrete pallet is removed

handle installation at playground

Trophies for fishing derby/advertisement once we have site approval

Block off fire truck on playground, while waiting for replacement parts

Commission members:

Ashley Martin: authorization for space at Fishing derby

Matt Frye-permit for fishing derby

Janice Coffill: continue to work with Premier Play to resolve playground issues