

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 09/06/2022

Approval: awaiting

Recorded by: Ashley Martin

Submitted by: Ashley Martin

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Matthew Frye, chair, Ashley Martin, secretary, Dave Ruth, Wade Sauls, Janice Coffill. Selectman representative: Beth Boudreau

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: TJ Terrio, Anthony

Meeting schedule start: 6:00 pm

Actual start time 6:02 PM.

Meeting Scribe: Ashley Martin

Members of public discussion items:

TJ Terrio discussed the Gunstock ski program. He was interested in restarting, as the program did not run last year. He has been in contact with gunstock, and is willing to coordinate the program. Plans to coordinate with Scott Blewitt, to have community members sign up through rec desk. Rec commission approved proposal to restart program.

Anthony proposed a community garden senior project. He has a goal of making multiple 3 x 5 raised beds. Beds will be at least 42 inches off the ground, so they are wheelchair accessible. Discussed possible locations for the raised beds. The commission will discuss options, prior to deciding on an exact location. Motion to accept the beds as a donation, and place after acceptance.

Rec complex updates:

Field excavation: no timeline at present.

Power and water: Chris is creating an 8 x 12 shed for well house. It will be located approximately 20 feet away from the well, and will hold hoses and equipment. There will need to be a trench dug to the pavilion from the powerlines.

Mowing: Plan to have an additional day of mowing this year. a day. Scott Blewitt asked for input for location. Commission members suggested clearing out trees along the road, to make the entrance more easily visible. Equipment too large to clean out behind the benches on the lower fields. Commission also discussed cutting around the playground in the upper field. Commission members also discussed the possible need for additional signage on route 4 to increase awareness of field area and make it safer to turn into facility.

Playground update: still waiting for a date from Premier play to have their playground foreman install the fire truck. Scott will plan to contact, to figure out an exact date.

Master planning versus strategic planning: the selectmen had hired a outside vendor to create the Northwood master plan. Commission members discussed the possibility of a strategic plan to provide input for master plan under outside vendor. The goal would be to create a 3 to 5 year plan. Commission agreed to shift to strategic planning.

Commission members asked about closing out the federal land and water grant. Town has met its matching funds. Request for Scott to request an invoice from Tasker well, as this could be considered an in-kind donation.

Friends of rec update: friends of Northwood recreation is planning to donate fencing for the lower playground. It will run along the road and playground. There was a request to include an equipment gate. Cement blocks will need to be moved in preparation for the fence placement. Friends of rec is also donating two additional Kompan spinners for the upper playground and Pollywood benches for the lower playground. Wade Sauls motioned to accept the donation. Donation accepted 6-0.

Baseball infield: Dave Ruth was interested in progress of redoing the baseball infield. He had previously expressed desire to redo the baseball infield to softball size to be used for little league and adult softball. Commission members wondered about the possibility of the Northwood Youth baseball association providing some help in finishing fields, as they had previously expressed interest. Commission members requested that Steve from the association come to the next meeting.

Trunk or treat: date Saturday, October 29. 430 to 6 PM. No cars will be able to leave after 5 PM. Will have contest for best trunk and costume.

Discussed possible rules regarding appropriate signage and handouts at trunk or treat. Decided to just remind participants that it is a family friendly event. The recreation department will plan to have a sign reminding parents to check candy and other handouts for safety.

Recreation Director updates:

Fall soccer: 143 participants. \$6185 From sponsorships and registrations. Scott is currently offering shorts and socks for sales at the Townhall.

Archery: starts September 7. 12 participants in the beginner class, two participants in the intermediate class. Unsure if the drop off in participation is related to change in date or time.

Other programs: senior trip to the fair had seven registrants. Was informed by the bus company that no driver is available. Scott has contacted other rec departments to see if they have a vehicle he might be able to use. Commission members also discussed the possibility of carpooling. He has looked into rental cars.

October 15 vendor fair. Currently, \$1000 from vendor sign ups. Pumpkin carving party will also occur at the same time.

Budget update: discussed budget info provided from the town. Requested clarification on certain line items. Sand and maintenance was over budget. Beach attendant line was under budget, as no lifeguards were present. Scott Blewitt clarified that the sand line was also used for maintenance, including seed, fertilizer, and application. Battery equipment was also purchased for weed whacking.

Community garden: still waiting on final ARPA decision from selectman. ? garden as an option for additional future funds. Discussed recreation request for the capital improvement plan, and commission recommendations for the capital improvement plan.

Commission items/update: Wade Sauls wished to discuss alternatives for dividing players among recreation teams. Expressed goal that teams would be of equal skill level.

Motion passed to adjourn meeting 6-0. Adjourned 7:45 PM