

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 10/04/2022

Approval: awaiting

Recorded by: Ashley Martin

Submitted by: Ashley Martin

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Matthew Frye, chair, Ashley Martin, secretary, Dave Ruth, Wade Sauls, Selectman representative: Beth Boudreau

Absent: Janice Coffill.

Scott Blewitt-Recreation director

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Mike LeBlanc

Meeting schedule start: 6:00 pm

Actual start time 6:02 PM.

Meeting Scribe: Ashley Martin

Approval of 9/6 minutes will wait until the next meeting

Agenda items:

Trunk or treat: Scheduled for October 29. 112 people have signed up. Current plan is to have set up finished by 4:30 PM. The event will take place from 5 to 6 PM. Volunteers are needed to help with parking. Scott Blewitt requested volunteer help from the commission to assist with setup and parking. Estimates that 6 volunteers will be needed. The plan is to utilize the open area along the back of the access road for parking, before allowing parking below. Scott Blewitt recommended that the lower fields not be used for parking, as in the past.

Discussed previous activities including a hay wagon, fire, and spooky walk. Previously, had decided to discontinue the spooky walk during COVID, then decided on a dedicated group to restart, if there is interested in redoing. Commission had previously discussed the spooky walk as a senior project. Scott Blewitt will request candy donations prior to the event. Discussed rules in the past, including that all participants had to provide candy and a trunk. Also discussed the possibility of restricting to town residents due to previous turnout.

Athletic field updates: Site work has been completed at the upper field. It is currently 1 to 2 feet below grade, and ready for the next step. Discussed goals for that area. The original plan had shown a multiuse field. With area cleared, there may also be room for additional facilities. Briefly discussed options including a pump track, basketball, or gaga ball court. Commission decided to first have an updated survey of the field area, prior to deciding on feasibility and location of facility improvements. Matt Frey will discuss the possibility of completing the survey with John Newman, before our next meeting.

Premier Play came with their foreman to replace the fire truck. The springs had started to come loose, so they were not able to place the new truck on the springs. The original footings were no longer installed to the correct depth. The manufacturer request the original fire truck once the new fire truck is installed. The ladder on the smaller structure is within 6 feet of the fence. Discussed the option to move the fence, or to put a panel up so that the bottom of the ladder is at least 6 feet away from the fence. Discussed putting benches inside the fence for chaperones to sit on. One of the current branches does feel loose.

Budget 2023: Scott Blewitt will present the rec budget October 18, at 6:45 PM. Requested an increase in rate of pay for the league coordinator, as well as increased time, up to 100 hours. Discussed changing the name from a league coordinator to league programmer. Also requested an increase in rate of pay for the beach attendant, and changing the naming of the beach attendant to recreation attendant. Plan is to have them help with rec department maintenance including mowing, weed whacking, and cleaning the playground. Scott Blewitt had requested commission input regarding budget. Discussed recommendations including more sand at beaches and benches at Lucas Pond. He also requested to

add an additional \$2500 to the sanitation line, as we spent more on sanitation than in the past. We now have 2 port-a-pottys at the athletic field and are keeping the port-a-potty at Northwood Lake until Halloween to allow for walkers. Maintenance line was also increased to reflect increased recreation facilities (increase of \$2,000). New budget request \$85,000.

Scott discussed his goal of a storage facility to allow for placement of the equipment and to allow us to have more equipment on hand to decrease the need for an outside mower.

Current and upcoming programs:

Youth basketball registration is open. Scott Blewitt is meeting with the principal to discuss times and days available. Registration will be for first through sixth grade. Third through sixth grade will travel. Commission wondered about options for adult basketball.

The ski program at gunstock has 19 sign ups. They will now sign up through the gunstock website. Lessons will be Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

Discussed the Christmas event. We will plan to have the event on December 4, starting at 3 PM. The tree lighting will then take place from 4 PM, on. Discussed the tree at the Town hall. Lighting should still be working from last year. However, the tree itself has lost most of its needles. Discussed the possibility of planting a smaller tree for when this tree is no longer useable. We will plan to have Santa come to the event, and request letters for his mailbox. Discussed the possibility of crafts or inside activities while waiting for Santa. Discussed past activities, including crafts and a movie. Scott Blewitt had talked to Coe Brown last year about providing music, and will plan to discuss again.

June Jam is planned for the end of June, will be a music festival at the athletic fields. 2 bands are currently booked. The hope is to have both food and music.

The Fall vendor fair is planned for October 15 of this year, currently 52 vendors have signed up.

Archery has 8 beginners and 3 in the beginner intermediate level.

Fall pumpkin people sign up to have individuals around town create scarecrow's using pumpkins.

Still interested in starting an adopt-a-spot program around town. Janice Coffill will request a list from Viena Dow regarding the spots she is currently maintaining, commission and Scott Blewitt will then create a list of open spots for other individuals or groups to help maintain.

Director updates and issues:

Had requested that baseball come to today's visit, but they were unable to attend. The hope was to discuss improvements at the upper field, as baseball had previously expressed interest in helping to finish the field.

Discussed the future of the center school. The selectman are looking for input as to whether or not the facility should be rehabbed, or torn down. Requested an estimate for the cost to fix. Briefly discussed the possibility of a warrant article, to ask for town input.

Would like to have one of the members from the 250th committee come to the next recreation commission meeting, to discuss their plans. Wade Sauls has been acting as liaison with 250th committee, and noted some continued hesitancy to consider fireworks.

Commission updates and issues:

Wade Sauls was contacted by Greg Bane regarding creating a bean pit at the upper fields. They discussed a possible location in the hill to the left of the Pavilion area. The Bean Hole Bash commission would cover the cost of installation. Decided to discuss further after updated survey is completed. Wade also wished to discuss the possibility of a Pavilion with a shell roof that would allow musicians to play in that area.

Jessy Leblanc came to the commission to discuss process for deciding team makeup. She felt that skill level between the two teams was fairly equal. Mike Leblanc wished to discuss his frustration with commission and Wade Sauls regarding previous discussion regarding team makeups, discussion became heated.

Matt Frye suggestion motion to end meeting at 8:04 pm. Ashley Martin motioned to adjourn. Beth Boudreau seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned.