**Town of Westborough Recreation Department**

**Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes – December 8th, 2020**

Members Present: Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland, Beth Travis, Bill Clausen, Colleen Dowd, Brian Kane

The Recreation Commission Meeting opened with Adam Lapointe of the Recreation Department reading the Governor Baker statement suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law.

**Approve Minutes**

The commission meeting opened with Colleen motioning to approve the minutes from the November minutes. Bill Clausen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Program Update**

Adam started by talking about the Ski Club that is typically run for both the high school and middle school. This year it is still being run, but will be limited to Gibbons only and a significantly reduced capacity for the bus. The program is at capacity for the current restrictions put into place. There is also discussion about the possibility of a basketball program, with there still being questions about how the program will look should there be approval from the school department.

A new program is going to take place in terms of video game tournaments similar to what was tried earlier in the year. We are now partnering with surrounding Central MA towns via GGLeagues in order to combine all of our numbers to give the leagues a better chance of actually running. Bill Clausen mentioned the possibility of including instruction as well.

Jenn had somebody approaching her in terms of installing a disc golf course somewhere in Westborough. They would cover the cost for installing the course via fundraising, however it takes a significant amount of land. Colleen Dowd questioned what they would “get out of it”, which was something Jenn said she would reach out to answer. There would be a need to work with the Conservation Commission regarding the space they are looking to use to install it. There was also discussion around getting the tee-boxes sponsored, as we could have QR Codes at each tee that could be updated.

Instead of having the Holiday Stroll and the Light Parade, it is being replaced by people registering their homes for display. This will be a list for people to see and go visit one. There was a question surrounding the lack of tree lighting on the trees downtown. Brian Kane mentioned that it’s not being done but he’s unsure why.

**New Non-Voting Member**

Somebody reached out to Jenn about their desire to get involved more via volunteering and serving on the board. They do not have kids in town, but have worked with kids in the past. Bill asked about needing to CORI members of the board, and Jenn will try to see if this is necessary. The need for more diversity on the commission was also discussed, and it was noted that the department should be more proactive in terms of engaging other populations. Colleen talked about being spotlighted by the diversity committee to try and generate interest from new groups. This is connected to the department as the golf committee wants to try to reach out to new demographics as well.

**Topics for Future Meetings**

Porta-potty vendors, expanding the lights at Haskell, and an outdoor ice skating rink were all brought up as topics. Jenn reached out to the DPW but has not heard back. Marlboro has one of these, and they’ll be contacted in terms of how it’s set up and maintained. Locations were brought up as well as how it could be created and initially flooded.

**Golf Update**

An offer has been made to somebody in the search for a new Golf Course Manager. It would be a step up for responsibilities but a step back in terms of their salary. There is still an ongoing negotiation.

**Master Plan Update**

At the Open Space subcommittee, the need for a community center was brought up. The need for outdoor facilities such as a turf field, more pickleball courts, more playgrounds instead of things simply being deemed passive recreation was also brought up. Jenn mentioned this to Town Manager Kristi Williams who was not sure why everything has been set for passive recreation in the past. There are two pieces of property near Veteran’s that will be up for purchase soon.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is tentatively set for January 5th at 6pm. If the Ice Rink discussion warrants an additional meeting, one will be set up for that. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.