

Town of Westborough Recreation Department

Recreation Commission

Date: Tuesday, April 26th 2022

Location: Senior Center (4 Rogers Rd.) Open Room

Convened: 6:35 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:07 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Recreation Director Jennifer Kirkland, Program Coordinator Josh Aponte, Commission Chair Earl Storey, Golf Course Manager Matt Griffith, Bethany Travis, Finance Committee Liaison Andrew Bradley, Liaison to the Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee Colleen Dowd, Bill Clausen, Brian Kane, Katie Welch, Sam Manvelian, Eileen Flahive, Lara Kopoyan, Dan Flahive, Mary Manvelian, Mark Manvelian, and Administrative Assistant Grethel Guzman-Ruck.

Committee Members Absent: (None).

Approve Minutes: March 1st and April 11th

Beth made the motion to approve the minutes from March 1st and April 11th and Bill seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the minutes from March 1st and April 11th were approved.

Golf Course Presentation (Matt Griffith)

Matt started his presentation by noting that the golf course is doing great; he has had 260 rounds days two or three times already. Good weather days are very promising. Leagues are starting this week, running Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. The golf cart charging issues have also been rectified. Colleen asked if people do more eighteen or nineteen holes and Matt explained that eighteen holes are more common on the weekends while nine holes are more common on weekdays. Bill asked if there was a way to keep track of the number of resident and non-resident golfers that play at the country club; Matt said he could run a report. Colleen asked if leagues are formed by Matt or if some come to the golf course already established. Matt explained that both situations occur and the he always offers to be as most and as least involved as they would like (or as they need). Jenn added that the restaurant lease was going to be up soon and that ideally we would like a restaurant that would cater to the golfing community. Bill asked if there was a possibility in having the food trucks come and serve at the golf course and allow people to dine on the patio. Jenn explained that we do not have ownership or say on the deck because it is the restaurant's property.

Jenn added in the end that she has received many comments on Matt's positive work ethic and changes to the golf course. The commission congratulated Matt.

Ted Gilber: Derby Racing

Ted has done the soapbox derby at Greenfield Massachusetts. He is new to town but remarked that this town has a history of speed racing. To make this happen in Westborough, he will need about a quarter of a mile. He added that he has spoken to Northeast Soapbox Derby

and that they would allow him to rent hay bales from them. Earl, the commission chair, added that he knows someone in town that may be able to assist in renting hay bales. Ted mentioned that there should be anywhere between two to twelve cars racing. The cars would not be motorized, must be two-by-fours, and must have hand breaks. The speedway is gone but “there is a history and its cool” and he hopes to make this a new tradition. He was thinking about having this take place on June 5th of 2022 for a total of about three hours. Bill asked why that date was chosen specifically. Ted explained that he hopes to have this take place in early summer and that since this works for him and his schedule, it may also work for other parents as well. He has spoken to other fathers and they are interested as well. Earl noted that he believes that the street that he is hoping to use cannot be used for this event because there is a mental health hospital that uses this parking lot and needs to be accessible at all times for ambulance services. He also noted that that area is busy already during the weekend. Jenn noted that Ted may need to go to the select board for further discussion on the road that he may have to use but that Rogers Road may be a better shot at getting some approval considering the ample parking. Brian was unsure of the name of the road but nonetheless suggested perhaps Crystal Pond Road, as another potential road to suggest to the select board. Colleen said that this idea sounded cool and it may also get older folks together. Bill mentioned that the timing is a bit aggressive and that perhaps he may need to push the date of the event further down, closer to the end of the summer. Ted added that he has gotten the quote for insurance, from K&K insurance in Indiana, for \$300 for this event. The consensus was that the street that was proposed is not the best for this event. Colleen added that perhaps we could involve different organizations like WASA to help build these cars. Bill asked about sourcing the material to build these cars and Ted said that constructing the cars would be a one day job.

Public Service Softball Event Discussion/ Potential Vote (Jenn Kirkland)

Zachary Glidden wants to hold the next Softball tournament at Rogers field instead of Haskell which he had used last time. Colleen added that the event was too big for Haskell last time and that that may have contributed to his want to change the location. Jenn said that she had suggested Mill Pond but he did not seem interested. He also wanted a one-day liquor license. Rogers is fine if he wants to use it but he will have to keep in mind to have a budget to pay for the field use, police detail and etc. It was also discussed that using school space may be a bit difficult because the rates are unclear.

AYF Softball Tournament Presentation/Discussion/Vote (Mark Manuelian)

Mark Manuelian is part of the Armenian Youth Federation and he would like to use Haskell Field for softball and the basketball courts on Haskell. He is hoping to use this space on September 3rd and participants will be of the age of sixteen to twenty-six but nonetheless, this event will bring people of all ages. They will be running shuttles so parking should not be a huge problem although there maybe about 300 people attending the event. Mark also explained that there will be about ten teams playing softball and that the event will roughly run from 9am-5pm. There will be people coming out of state so

there will not be many cars using the parking lot. Jenn added that because this is a huge event, this may need to go through the select board. Brian noted that this consideration speaks to Earl's diligent work with our fields. It was also discussed that we must charge because this event could be precedence setting with any future large event inquiries, especially having recently voted to adopt the new fields policy. Colleen made the motion to approve the usage of Haskell field along with the necessary police detail, porta-potty, trash, and other responsibilities that will go with it.

Facilities Update: Dog Park and Outdoor Basketball Courts (Jenn Kirkland)

Jenn announced our approval for the dog park and for the new outdoor basketball court. We are waiting to hear back from Anthony Calderone about using money that is fundraised. Earl noted that the trees must be cut down which comes with a price but this will be useful for other future projects because the land will be cleared for that. These projects are permitted and ready to begin.

Program Update: Summer Hires (Jenn Kirkland)

It is very difficult to find lifeguards. We may not be able to open up the beach this summer. We need twelve to fifteen lifeguards at least. This is a problem in other towns as well. The age requirement is sixteen and above which is the state law. There are classes to become certified lifeguards. These classes are everywhere but there is little interest in teens at this time. Earl suggested to keep the beach closed but to provide porta-potties since there may be people that are in the vicinity and may want to use them. Josh suggested maybe putting them across the street at the pickleball courts so that it doesn't encourage people to use the beach while it is closed. Josh also noted that last year we had nineteen camp counselors, seven of which are reapplying, and we have twenty-eight new applicants.

New Business

Brian encouraged everyone to go watch the Women Softball games.

Next Meeting/Meeting Adjournment at 8:07 p.m.

Colleen made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Earl seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Rec. Commission approved these minutes on Tuesday, June 6, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grethel Guzman-Ruck