

# Town of Westborough Recreation Department

## Recreation Commission

**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022

**Location:** Forbes Building, Room #207

**Convened:** 6:32 p.m.

**Adjourned:** 7:54 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Recreation Director Jennifer Kirkland, Commission Chair Earl Storey, Golf Course Manager Matt Griffith, Golf Course Superintendent Michael Hightower, Finance Committee Liaison Andrew Bradley, Bethany Travis, Brian Kane, Katie Welch, Hank Rauch, and Administrative Assistant Grethel Guzman-Ruck.

**Committee Members Absent:** Program Coordinator Josh Aponte, Liaison to the Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee Colleen Dowd, and Bill Clausen.

### **Approve Minutes: June 7, 2022**

Beth made the motion to approve the minutes from June 7, and Earl seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the minutes from June 7 were approved.

### **Golf Course: Water on the Course**

We used to have coolers on the golf course but they were not the cleanest and we got rid of them because of COVID-19. It is also a lot of work to put a house out with water, which people did use, but it was mainly to clean their towels and etc., not to actually drink water. Jenn also spoke with the Board of Health and they had mentioned the concern with the risk of contamination at any point. Golfers that are environmentally conscious already go to the golf course with their own water bottles and players already buy water in the Pro Shop. It may just be simpler to have a water fountain at the Pro Shop.

### **Golf Course: Finances // End of FY22**

Matt proposed new rates and age groups. He wanted to separate junior membership fees into two categories: golfers that are 18 years old or younger, and golfers that are 19-22 years old. For rates, he proposed a 5%-7% membership increase which is under the current rate of inflation. He noted that everyone knows that the prices of everything has increased and increasing golf course memberships fees should be no surprise. Matt also added that if golfers apply for their golf memberships before February 1<sup>st</sup>, that they would then pay the 2022 Season Fee. There was discussion about making sure residents and the elderly get a better deal in these new fees. Brian also added that he would like to see a Veteran's discount. Matt added that he does accommodate these requests and gives them the senior price. Matt added that perhaps we could increase the fees by 5% for residents and 7% for non-residents. Jenn said that she would do projections for next meeting so that we could have an idea of what the revenue could be. We will vote next meeting.

## **Golf Course: Capital Purchases**

We would like to purchase an indoor golf simulator on the capital plan. This would cost around \$45,000. We just want to see how we could use the golf course year-round and generate revenue during the winter. We would also like to purchase an equipment vehicle for \$50,000.

## **Recreation: Updates // Summer Recap**

We had a great summer. The gate for Chauncy Lake remained closed outside of our business hours, DPW assisted in cleaning the beach in the morning, and we placed an extra Porta-potty in the parking lot. Earl mentioned that there was an issue with charcoal grills but that it has all been cleaned up. Summer programs ran smoothly as well and we are currently getting ready for basketball. Boys basketball registration are a bit low but there has been a decrease in registration over the years. Travel already had two practices and one game day per week which is a lot of dedication. This schedule may be a reason for why we typically do not see children play both travel and recreation basketball. We will be running the Ski program this year. We received ARPA funds and also the Park Grant for our Splash Pad project. We had to unfortunately forfeit the park grant funds however because we were not able to solidify a proper quote for the Splash Pad. We still have the ARPA funds and are looking at getting a more accurate quote.

## **Recreation: Financial Assistance Policy // VOTE**

We never truly had a formal policy in place. We can base financial aid on the USDA Food & Nutrition Guideline. We would take the income and household size, compare it to the chart, and this would give us an indication as to how much aid we will give. Financial Aid applied to youth programs. Earl made the motion to adopt the Financial Aid Policy and Brian seconded the motion. The Vote was unanimous.

## **Recreation: Facilities Discussion**

We want to build a cricket pitch near the hospital. It generates a lot of revenue for the department. The sport requires a lot of commitment because games run for hours. There is a lot of interest in this cricket pitch.

## **Nominating Representatives**

Beth expressed interest in remaining in the Open Space Preservation Committee. Earl nominated Beth onto the Open Space Preservation Committee and Brian seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Beth & Earl expressed interest in remaining on the Walkup Robinson Trust.

## **Westborough Affordable Housing Trust & Pickleball/ Chauncy Adjacent Land**

Hank Rauch from the Affordable Housing Trust gave a presentation on the space adjacent to the Pickleball court and Chauncy Lake area. His department are looking at using that area possibly for affordable housing. There is an issue with new properties not being affordable. Earl noted that in Hank's presentation, the houses would be very close to our parking lot. Earl mentioned that we need to increase our parking spots. Katie also added that pickleball is very loud and that may disturb the residents nearby. Perhaps we would need more trees in between to muffle the noise a bit.

## **Next Meeting/Meeting Adjournment at 7:38 p.m.**

The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Earl made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Beth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Rec. Commission approved these minutes on Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grethel Guzman-Ruck