

# Town of Westborough Recreation Department

## Recreation Commission

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023

**Location:** Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

**Convened:** 6:30 p.m.

**Adjourned:** 7:39 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Recreation Director Jennifer Kirkland, Program Coordinator Josh Aponte, Liaison to the Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee Colleen Dowd, Finance Committee Liaison Andrew Bradley, Katie Welch, Brian Kane, Bill Clausen. Bethany Travis, Bill Thomason, Margaret Solfiell, Ralph Arabian, and Administrative Assistant Grethel Guzman-Ruck.

**Committee Members Absent:** Commission Chair Earl Storey and Golf Course Manager Matt Griffith.

### **Approve Minutes: December 20, 2022**

Colleen made the motion to approve the minutes from December 20, 2022 and Beth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the minutes from December 20 were approved.

### **Golf Course: Updates**

We don't know when we'll open but Mike Hightower and Matt Griffith will decide when that will be. We will be going to town meeting for a new tractor. We have also implemented the new golf season fees, and members in particular are enjoying the legacy membership option. Because of the developments and questions about the golf course building, formerly leased by Civic Kitchen, we have halted temporarily the inquiries into the golf simulator. Andrew suggested still looking into the golf simulator and the questions associated with having one.

### **Country Club Building Use Committee Discussion**

There is going to be a Building Use Committee that will discuss and decide what the building next to the golf pro shop will be used for now that the lease with Civic Kitchen has finished. Jenn explained that Ian Johnson is the Select Board Member that was voted in and that Matt Griffith will also make part of this committee as the Golf Club Golf Pro. Brian asked who will be the ones to decide which Golf club member and which non-members will get to join. The Selectboard will be deciding who those individuals will be.

### **Country Club Building Use Committee Commission + Director // VOTE**

A member of the Recreation Commission needs to be voted into the Country Club Building Use Committee. Bill expressed his interest but elaborated in his decision to nominate Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland. Brian seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 4-0 in favor of appointing Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland into the Country Club Building Use Committee.

## **Recreation: Updates**

Basketball season is wrapping up. The summer brochure has been sent out. Registration for summer activities are open and we will be using space in Armstrong Elementary School and Gibbons Middle School. The Ski Program has also ended.

We will be asking at Town Meeting for \$3,500 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July block party. Prices increase every year and donations are not what they have been in the past. We are looking at new and creative ways of advertising donation opportunities.

We will also be asking at town meeting for \$4,000 for fish stocking at Sandra Pond.

Brian mentioned possibly organizing a Softball Tournament the first Saturday after the block party and some of those funds can go back into the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Block Party account

## **Haskell Lights**

The lights at the Haskell Field tennis courts need to be replaced. Two are not functioning and others are just as old. The original cost was going to be about \$20,000 but the town will pay for half. We will pay \$10,000. We will be using LED lights, they are more environmentally friendly. We will also be getting a \$3,000 rebate from this installation. There were some questions about using solar panels but when reaching out to a professional, they explained that it would not work in this area because we would need a lot more room.

## **Algonquin RHS Boat Proposal**

Ralph Arabian, an engineering teacher at Algonquin Regional High School requested the use of Chauncey Lake May 15 (or May 16 as a rain-date) for a boat project for his high school students. He went over the materials that are going to be used, his certifications, and safety precautions. The students would go out in their boats about 20-30 feet off of the shoreline and would wear life vests. Water personnel will already be in the water when the boats go out. At the end of the presentation, it was discussed that when Mr. Arabian is sure that he is able to get sufficient funding for this project, then we will take a vote on his request.

## **Youth Commission**

In September, we will be setting up a Youth Commission. We will be doing this with the Town Clerk office and are looking to have Juniors in High School fulfill 2-year terms.

Jenn had recently spoken with students that came into the office from the Civic engagement class. She asked them their thoughts about a Youth Commission and they elaborated that it is a great idea and that it will look good on college applications. They also explained the importance of marketing our programs and employment opportunities to Juniors and Seniors directly because at their age, they have more of a voice as to what they would like to participate in.

## **Next Meeting: Memorial Hall, April 4, 2023**

The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Bill made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Brian seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Rec. Commission approved these minutes on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grethel Guzman-Ruck