

Town of Westborough Recreation Department

Recreation Commission

Date: Tuesday September 5, 2023

Location: Memorial Hall, 34 West Main St.

Convened: 6:31 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:15 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chair Bethany Travis, Recreation Director Jennifer Kirkland, Liaison to the Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee Colleen Dowd, Finance Committee Liaison Andrew Bradley, Bill Clausen, Brian Kane, Bill Linnane, and Administrative Assistant Grethel Guzman-Ruck.

Committee Members Absent: Golf Course Manager Matt Griffith, Program Coordinator Josh Aponte, and Katie Welch.

Approve Minutes: July 11, 2023

Bill made the motion to approve the minutes from July 11, 2023; Brian seconded the motion. There was a roll-call vote; the vote was unanimous 4-0-0 and the motion carried; Minutes from July 11, 2023 were approved.

Pickleball Policy Discussion || VOTE || ** Jennifer Kirkland

Jenn explained the history of the Senior play group. They originally played at the Forbes Building gym on Fridays from 8am-11am. The group eventually moved to the Pickleball courts on West St and played Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8am-11am. When the Nelson Pickleball Courts by Lake Chauncy were built, the group moved to those courts. The Recreation Department has received inquiries about using courts that are not being used during the time of Senior play. The Committee acknowledged how much the Senior play group has grown and the importance of having a dedicated time for active recreation for seniors. The committee agreed that this is a lot of time to reserve if not all courts are being used. Brian suggested that we may be giving off mixed messages to the public being that we support recreation but may be turning away some by reserving all of the courts at those times. Colleen suggested that if not all of the courts are being used, then not all of them should be reserved.

Brian made the motion to reserve six of the eight courts for Senior play during Senior play hours; Bill seconded the motion. There was a roll-call vote; the vote was unanimous 4-0-0 and the motion carried; six of the eight courts at the Nelson Pickleball Courts will be reserved for Senior play during Senior play hours.

Renaming State Hospital Fields Discussion || VOTE || **Bill Linnane

Bill Linnane came before the Recreation Commission to propose changing the name of the fields currently known as both the State Hospital Field and the Chauncy Fields. Earl Storey, the previous chair to the Recreation Commission, restructured and made the aforementioned field into a multi-functional field. He still works and maintains this field as he does with all of our other facilities. This field in particular is special because he requested to manage this field when he first began working for the Department of Public Works. The Recreation Committee were in agreement to rename the State Hospital Field to Earl Storey Park but Brian brought up that there may be some confusion because Haskell field is dedicated to Earl's father who goes by the same name. After much discussion, it was agreed that Haskell Field is only referred to as Haskell Field and nothing more.

Brian made the motion to change the State Hospital Fields' name to Earl Storey Park; Bill seconded the motion. There was a roll-call vote; the vote was unanimous 4-0-0 and the motion carried; the State Hospital Fields' name will be changed to Earl Storey Park.

This change will need to go up to the Selectboard for a vote to become official.

Recreation: Updates to include Summer Programs, Golf Course, and Golf Building Use Committee || **Jennifer Kirkland

The Recreation Department has had so many successful events and programs this summer such as three summer concerts, our summer camps, summer sports programs, and the Fourth of July Block Party. We had no issues at Lake Chauncy this year without Lifeguards. The Girls Scout installed their toy library at the beach successfully, the Fall and Winter brochure is posted. Our Main St. Trick-Or-Treat will be October 24th this year.

Despite the amount of rain we have gotten this year, we are only \$700 off from our previous year's profit. When the course is open, it is exuberantly busy. Bill asked how well we did with Food Trucks this year at the golf course but because of the rain and the days we had to close the course, we could not get a good indicator of its success.

Next Meeting: Memorial Hall, October 3, 2023

Bethany made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Colleen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 4-0-0 and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Rec. Commission approved these minutes on October 3, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grethel Guzman-Ruck