

Town of Westborough Recreation Department

Recreation Commission

Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Location: Memorial Hall, 34 West Main St. Westborough, MA 01581

Convened: 6:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chair Bethany Travis, Matt Griffith, Bill Clausen, Brian Kane, Katie Welch, Mike Wilsker, and Grethel Guzman-Ruck.

Others Present: Andrew Bradley and David Wong

Committee Members Absent: Jennifer Kirkland, Josh Aponte, Colleen Dowd.

Request to us Haskell Field During Off Season || VOTE

During the height of COVID-19, a small group of residents asked to play soccer on Haskell field in the winter. We accepted their request at the time although the field was closed because recreational opportunities were limited. The same group requested permission to play this winter as well. Although everyone in the commission was generally in favor of this request, the commission agreed that before taking a vote, a procedure for making requests like these should be voted on as well to give an opportunity for others that are interested in making other similar requests. The commission came to a consensus that requests can be made on a weekly basis because we have to make sure that the field will not be damaged. David Wong clarified that his group of about seven to eight people would only play once a month and that they would play on the snow so there would be little to no contact with the soil underneath. This will be discussed further at the next Recreation Commission meeting when Jennifer Kirkland presents a possible procedure or protocol for future requests.

Fields Discussion || **Earl Storey

Earl Storey was not present at this meeting so the Recreation Commission will push this agenda item for the next meeting.

Golf 2024 Rates || VOTE || **Matt Griffith

Matt Griffith explained that inflation has gone up by 3.67% and he is proposing increasing membership dues by 3%. The Golf course lost thirty-nine days to rain compared to fourteen days in the last fiscal year nevertheless, we are ahead in revenue and are very busy. Many people compliment the quality of our golf course thanks to Mike Hightower's field maintenance. Bill requested a more comprehensive review of the numbers for next meeting. Matt also announced the first "Turkey Day" on November 14th where people can come with turkeys or other grocery items for donation in lieu of paying for greens fees. The comestibles would be donated to the Westborough Food Pantry.

Bill made the motion to approve the increase in golf fees as outlined in Matt's presentation. Beth seconded the motion. The Recreation Commission voted 3-0-1 and the motion carried. The Recreation Commission approved the increase in golf fees as outlined in Matt's presentation.

Financial Aird Form || Possible Vote || **Colleen Dowd

Colleen Dowd was not present at this meeting so the Recreation Commission will push this agenda item for the next meeting.

Youth Commission

If a Youth Commission is formed, the Recreation Commission will have to increase from five people to seven, including two youth positions. The two youth positions would also be able to vote on all agenda items. This would require a four-person quorum for every meeting. The Recreation Commission also can collaborate with the School Department and have a standing agenda item that allows students to come to give their opinions. Should the Recreation Commission decide to move forward with a seven-member board, the Selectboard would need to approve and vote on the new make up of the Recreation Commission. Katie suggested perhaps having the youth position be more advisory instead of having the ability to vote. Beth added that the youth contribution was so valuable in the past when the Recreation Commission had youth attend. There is a lot that falls under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Commission and members have a lot of responsibility with every vote. This may become an issue if youth positions change often or are unable to attend monthly meetings. The idea of offering any credits for college applications or internships was presented. The commission suggested working with the high school to get youth to attend our Recreation Commission meeting on or by January 2024 not as voting members but as open discussion for that meeting.

Recreation: Updates to Include Fall Programs, Golf Course ||

****Jennifer Kirkland**

Main St. Trick-Or-Treat was also a success but it was very big this year. Perhaps months in advance, the Recreation Department can each out to the police chief to see if they would recommend closing the rotary and putting up signs days in advance to see alternate routes. Basketball drafts have begun and Ski registrations are open. The Recreation Department along with Mark Zepf, Westborough's Economic Development Coordinator, are currently working on this year's Winter Stroll which will be held on Sunday, November 26th from 2pm-5pm.

Community Center Updates || **Jennifer Kirland

The Community Center article passed. The town is still inspecting and assessing the building on 1500 Union Street for purchase.

Approve Minutes: October 3, 2023 || VOTE

Bill made the motion to approve the minutes from October 3, 2023. Brian seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 3-0-0 and the motion carried. The minutes from October 3, 2023 were approved.

Next Meeting: Memorial Hall, December 5th, 2023

The Recreation Commission agreed that we may need to make another meeting before December 5th to discuss the second agenda item further because Earl Storey is retiring and he

would be gone by December 5th. December 5th will be a tentative date for the next meeting until the Commission can decide on another date.

Bill made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Brian seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 3-0-0 and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Rec. Commission approved these minutes on Tuesday, December 5th, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grethel Guzman-Ruck