

## RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2019 – 8:00 P.M.

Len Bicher	Chairperson	x
Scott Yappen	Vice Chairperson	x
Bob Androsky	Member	x
Jeri Quirk	Member	
Jennifer Kerr	Member	x
	Member	
Nicole Halajian	Secretary	x
	Alternate 1	
	Alternate 2	
Alex Rubenstein	Council Liaison	x

Also present: Mary Schneider

Call meeting to order, Flag Salute, Moment of Silence

Meeting opened at 8:03pm

- Minutes from February 28, 2019 – Motion by Bob Androsky, second by Scott Yappen to approve the minutes with the following correction from Scott: *“Byram is authorized up to 2 cents for Open Space Tax, but the Town Council is currently choosing only 1.2 cents per \$100 of property value. There is \$400,000+ in this fund account. Each year taxes bring in \$110,000 more cash flow of which \$30,000-40,000 pays off current debt (like Tamarack Park). The remaining \$70,000+ (and \$400,000) is available for Recreational use. In 2018, Byram Town Council provides a directive that they will not likely be using Open Space monies for land acquisition in the near future, and that it should be used for recreation infrastructure, improvements and other purposes. Our committee is responsible to give Council the recommendations for these expenditures.”* Motion passed
- Donna Griff is interested in joining the Recreation Committee but cannot attend on Wednesdays. The Committee feels that Donna would be an asset and discussed other date options. The time would be kept at 8pm.
  - Motion by Bob Androsky, second by Nicole Halajian to change Recreation Committee meetings to the third Monday of the month starting April 15. Motion passed
- Mary Schneider is interested in joining the Recreation Committee. Alex advised her to write a letter to the Council with her resume.
- Greener By Design. The meeting was interesting with many attendees and got people talking. Everyone should take the survey and share it.

- Jen will send the survey to the cheerleaders and Len will send it to the leaders of each sports group.
  - Len stated communication is an issue. There are numerous Facebook pages and emails but it is still hard to get information, especially for people who do not use the Internet. Mary suggested putting a flyer in everyone's mailbox. Alex advised that the town will be switching to Nixle for mass communication.
  - Greener By Design will meet with the Recreation Committee again and will be hosting 2-3 more public forums. Jen suggested they wait until the summer when summer residents are present, such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June.
  - Greener By Design reports to the Council.
- There was a concern of non-township employees having access to the computer/town email so instead of a Rec Department email address, an alias ([recreation@byramtwp.org](mailto:recreation@byramtwp.org)) was created that will go to Doris. The budget now proposes a new position to hire a full-time person who will dedicate 60-70% time to the Recreation Committee, PIO, etc. The Council will vote on this budget.
- Byram Day
    - The Committee discussed different options for Byram Day such as converting to a block party/picnic, food trucks and discontinuing vendors. Mary said vendors pay for the rides but Nicole stated the budget was already submitted which included the rides.
    - Options: Sunday, September 15 (sunset 7:09pm, 7:45/8pm for fireworks) or Saturday, June 8
    - Fireworks – would this be too late on a school night? Other night activities: bonfire, band, dog costume contest
    - Fridays/Saturdays in September would not work because of football home games.
    - Alex will check if DPW would get time and a half on Sundays
    - It was suggested that Flag Football be played at Byram Day. Parents will see what sports are available and more kids may want to join.
    - Subcommittee: Jen, Bob, Mary, Donna, Rachael. Jen will schedule the meeting and ask Doris to notice the meeting.
    - Motion by Scott Yappen, second by Bob Androsky to empower the Byram Day Subcommittee to create the date and scope of the day and report back at the April 15 Recreation Committee meeting. Motion passed
- Netcong Education Foundation Summer Camp
    - The Netcong Board of Ed is planning summer camp from June 25 – August 23 for 30-40 kids from ages 4-14 and reviving the Camp Lenape name
    - This includes full day and before and after care and a weekly trip. They would like help from Byram with advertising/promoting the camp.
    - Alex would like them to contact him about promoting the camp
    - Jen will email Alex the information

- Glow Golf. Jeri wanted clarification on who the event is targeted to (free for kids and adults or just kids)? It would be great for kids to learn golf and use an entity in town (Lake Lackawanna Golf Course). Jeri should contact John Harin (operator of golf course) to work out the details.
- Perception of the Recreation Committee
  - At the GBD meeting people felt that the Recreation Committee is not doing anything. One of the issues is a lack of volunteers and a lack of communication. It was suggested to ask ShopRite if we could hang flyers
  - If someone asks what the Recreation Committee is doing: Answer – The Recreation Committee requested a master plan, which Greener By Design is now putting together.
  - People remember a more robust recreation department of the past. There should be an event every month. For example, there was an event where someone would volunteer to teach kids how to ride a bike.
  - People don't realize that certain events are run by the Recreation Committee (for example the Triathlon and Byram Day)
  - There is Open Space money that is not being used. Scott feels the bathrooms and playgrounds should be updated now. However members of the Committee feel that we need to wait for GBD to submit their plan. What is important to one person may not be important to someone else. Alex advised that the Council will not approve a large expenditure at this time.
  - Field #8 is known to be a problem – can a French drain be put in? Alex stated the problem is more than a French drain and the entire field would have to be raised.
- Pickelball
  - Mary asked if a new pickelball court could be sponsored. Alex stated that an RFP would have to be put out to give each business an opportunity to submit a plan.
  - Nicole stated that she thought pickelball had already been approved. Alex advised that approval needs to be done through the Council and not the Township Manager. Any requests that the Committee has should always be addressed to the Council.
  - Motion by Bob Androsky, second by Jennifer Kerr to instruct Len to write a letter to the Council requesting a pickelball court with concessions to figure out sponsorship. Motion passed

Motion by Bob Androsky, second by Jennifer Kerr for adjournment at 9:52pm – approved by all

The next meeting will be Monday, April 15, 2019 at 8:00pm at the CO Johnson Fieldhouse