

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2021 – 8:00 P.M.

Len Bicher	Chairperson	x
Scott Yappen	Vice Chairperson	x
Jeri Quirk	Member	
Jennifer Kerr	Member	x
Kymerli Morris	Member	x
	Member	
Nicole Halajian	Secretary	x
Donna Griff	Alternate 1	x
	Alternate 2	
Jack Gallagher	Council Liaison	x

Also present: Alex Rubenstein, Phil Crosson, Joe Sabatini

Call meeting to order, Meeting opened at 8:00pm

- Minutes from December 14, 2020 – Motion by Scott Yappen, second by Kymerli Morris to approve the minutes. Jen Kerr abstains. Motion passed
- Review of Recreation Committee function –
 - (1) Make recommendations to the Manager concerning or relating to the operation and administration of the recreation functions, including scheduling of all facilities.
 - (2) Advise and make recommendations to the Council concerning the recreation program and policies and the use of recreation areas in the Township.
 - (3) Create ad hoc and/or standing committees, to include the Byram Day Committee.
- Open Space update:
 - Reserve for Open Space - \$466,923 and Reserve for Debt Service - \$149,809
 - In the past the grant money provided was for acquisition of land.
 - The loan process was discussed.
 - The OS Committee makes recommendations to the Council. The OS Committee members are representatives from each committee.
- Ideas for 2021:
 - Halloween Walk in the Woods
 - Virtual online events. Such as the program with Chef it Up (prepping foods and snacks), senior activities, Yoga.
 - Scott suggested to work with Sparta and their online program and Camp Sacajawea. Phil and Scott will work with Sparta's Recreation Director.
 - Woodworking, games with prizes, Easter egg hunt, mini libraries around town, reading challenges.

- Joe stated little libraries can be added to the Eagle Scout list. Little libraries can be designated for kids and adults. Len suggested putting one by the little school building.
 - The Kids Triathlon is usually in June. Miss Byram is usually in May.
 - There was a discussion on hikes. The first hike will be scheduled Saturday, February 20 at 10am at the South Shore Road parking lot. Phil will advertise on Facebook and Nixle.
 - Byram Day – Donna felt June is a risk and Alex agreed. Donna will start planning for the fall (September / October) keeping in mind the fireman parade and football and will coordinate with the band and Scouts. Donna and Kymberli will coordinate the first sub-committee meeting.
- Maintenance Needs: CO Johnson basketball court (surface cracking). Mike is aware and will fix in the Spring.
- CO Johnson Engineering Study: 2 concepts were proposed. Committee members should send comments to Joe & Phil by February 3. What do you like or dislike about the plans?
 - Parking can be an issue as most of the parking is on the left.
 - The skate park would be removed, Joe advised it may be at the end of it's life cycle. Donna disagrees. Donna was on the Council that put in the skate park. She feels it is still used and needed in Byram.
 - The paths should be lit for night walking. Alex suggested ground lighting.
 - Len asked how field lines would be painted
 - Scott mentioned soccer use. Joe advised that soccer primarily uses Indian Field. There are other fields available and soccer has chosen not to use them.
- Social Media Guidelines: Alex stated that conduct online needs to be professional and not offending to people. However Donna argued that as a Committee member, she was not advised on what she is allowed to post on her personal social media. There are no written guidelines for volunteers.
 - Phil shared the Employee Handbook which addresses social media on page 46
- Exploring joint ventures with Netcong and Stanhope: Len spoke to a Netcong Councilman regarding to prospect of shared services. Jack and Scott will call other towns, we are not restricted to Netcong and Stanhope. Mt. Olive has a different demographic than Byram and is very involved in Recreation.
 - Joe shared that there is \$40,000 in the budget for a part-time Recreation Director. But a full-time person would significantly impact the budget (approx. \$100,000)
 - The Council will have to set expectations for the part-time Recreation Director (field process, Byram Day, rec programs, administrative aspects, etc). The undertaking of events with a part-time person is not feasible (develop, coordinate, collect money and registration).

- Joe stated that the residents are not voicing that they want a Recreation Director. The community needs to state what they want.
- The Byram website no longer has the ability to collect online payments and registrations. Events are now offered at no charge.
- Any Other Items:
 - Grants: Greener by Design proved a list of about 30 grants. Phil went through them but Byram is not eligible. The Recreation Committee members can research grants and email them to Phil.
 - Donna stated there is a dead tree by the trail at Brookwood Road. Phil will ask Mike to look at it.

Motion by Nicole Halajian, second by Kymberli Morris for adjournment at 9:54pm – approved by all. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 8:00pm, via Zoom.