

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2020 – 8:00 P.M.

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

Also present: Phil Crosson, Alex Rubenstein, Ben Spinelli and Frank Pinto until 9pm

Call meeting to order, Flag Salute, Moment of Silence. Meeting opened at 8:00pm

- Minutes from January 13, 2020 – Motion by Len Bicher, second by Jennifer Kerr to approve the minutes. Motion passed
- Greener by Design presentation. Ben explained the Highlands Preservations and the restrictions
 - Turf fields is a tough proposition. Turf prep and installation is approximately \$1.5 million. Upkeep is approximately \$400k per year. The lifespan is approximately 10-15 years.
 - Neil Gylling is 100% in wetlands. Doing new things is not impossible but new disturbance is an issue. There will be regularity hurtles. Will need a well-life biologist for the septic system or sewer system. Scott suggested building new bathrooms next to the tennis courts on the municipal side, which is a potential option.
 - People want a new/updated fieldhouse with concession stand and facilities. Discussion on updating the fieldhouse vs building new.
 - A pavilion is possible at Tamarack but would have to be put on piers. Only 3% of the property can be developed due to Highlands. Ben would have to check the borders to see if the entire 3% has already been utilized.
 - The challenge is not field space. Sport enrollment is declining.
 - What is the cost of a dome/bubble? Tamarack would be the best option since it's the easiest to find and can be rented out.
 - Contractor prices can vary. It is best to give more flexibility for a better price.
 - Recreation Director: Stanhope and Netcong are not averse to sharing a Recreation Director.
 - Suggested next step: concentrate on updating the fieldhouse, field 8, and lighting.

- CO Johnson Fieldhouse: suggestion to rename the Fieldhouse, “Recreation Center” so it can be used by all groups. Bob suggested a survey but Alex feels talking to the groups is the next step. Phil will notice the meetings.
 - Non-sports groups meeting at the Fieldhouse: March 4 at 7pm
 - Sports group meeting at the Fieldhouse: March 12 at 7pm

- Dog Park at Mohawk Ridge: Scott spoke with neighbors with dogs and all are in favor of a dog park. Scott toured dog parks in the area and found most use mesh wire, there is a small dog area and big dog area, some have agility equipment, bench seating, and poop bags, 2 gates so dogs do not come in contact until the 2nd gate is opened. Mt. Olive has wood chips and others have grass. Some towns take good care of the grass while it’s obvious others do not.
 - Next step: Motion by Scott Yappen, second by Jeri Quirk to ask the Council to approve either a door-to-door survey or mailed survey for the residents surrounding Mohawk Ridge on their thoughts of the dog park development.

- Upcoming events – Phil to advertise the hike on April 26 and Kids Triathlon on June 20. Phil will create the Kids Triathlon event “with registration starting mid-May.”

- Archery Course – Griffin & Howe will provide a two-half day course on archery for \$125 plus \$15 bow rental. Griffin & Howe will handle the money and liability. The Town can publicize the event on Facebook and Nixle. The Town should be the conduit of local events.

- Byram Fest: rain date Saturday, June 6. On Friday, June 5 gates will open 6pm. Sunset is 8:28pm. Fireworks 9pm.
 - Fireworks should be the same setup as last year
 - Vendors: 4 food trucks and 2 dessert trucks
 - March 16 should be a Byram Fest planning meeting to discuss: inflatable rides and games, volunteers. Phil to notice the meeting and invite groups.
 - Phil to contact Magic Touch DJ for emcee and music. Timeframe 5:30-9 and set up on the football field.
 - Miss Byram: need to advertise and accept applications. Phil to check on the stage or rental price. Also suggested for a 20x40 tent over stage.

- Scott asked if someone should represent the Recreation Committee at Council meetings. Alex suggested someone attend at least quarterly. Len advised that Scott may represent the Committee but his comments have to be prepared so they represent the entire group.

- Scott would like the public to attend Recreation Committee meetings. While the public is encouraged to attend, they would have to wait until the open portion on the agenda.

Motion by Bob Androsky, second by Jennifer Kerr for adjournment at 10:19pm – approved by all. The next meeting will be March 16, 2020 at 8:00pm at the Municipal Building.