

Walpole Recreation Committee

Minutes of 11/08/2023

Members Present: Scott Rodenhauer (Chair), Marilou Blaine, Kraig Harlow (Recreation Director), Guests: Mike & Cindy Hayes, Cindy Westover (Residents), Ahmad Esfahani and Kristie Murphy (Non-residents) and Cheryl Mayberry (Selectboard Liaison).

Members Absent: Diane Harty (Recreation Committee Vice-Co Chair), David Kuniholm (Vice-Co Chair) and Evelyn Beliveau.

6:06 pm: The Chair started the meeting by asking everyone to limit themselves to 5 minutes on speaking about a topic.

Approval of Minutes: In the absence of a quorum of committee members, the approval of the October minutes is tabled until the next meeting.

Pickleball:

Kraig gave both a short-term and long-term proposal for updating the tennis/pickleball court area. The short-term proposal is to provide additional time to get pricing on the long-term proposal.

- Short-term: Cover the red lines on the west end and paint 4 pickleball courts in blue. Remove one tennis court net and add wiring netting for the 4 courts. Painting is estimated at \$4,000 with wire net and cables between (\$1.5K-\$3K). A few of the players offered to do the painting if needed. Kraig will investigate the paint costs.
- Long-term: Includes the removal of the existing surface, expansion of the court surface, repaving, additional fencing, poles, netting, and painting. The discussion revolved around the high cost and whether there are fundraising and grant opportunities to help offset the project cost.

Everyone present agreed that both ideas overall were pretty good, with some concerns expressed regarding a few of the details. The ideas are tabled until the next meeting and all the players present, when asked, agreed that no public hearing was needed to discuss these ideas further.

Cindy Westover thinks that it would be a good idea to record the meetings each month. It was explained that not all committees are required to tape their meetings, but it should be considered.

Recreation Committee Members: A letter of interest was received from Annie Ewaskio to serve on the Rec committee and consideration will be tabled until a quorum is present. There was a question about whether openings are posted, they haven't been but can be posted.

Basketball: Signups are this week and Kraig is hoping for 90+ participants. The program runs from November 27, 2023, through February 12, 2024. Practices will be held during the week for grades 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 (7-8 at WES and 6-8 at NWS) with Saturday morning games split between WES and NWS from 10am to 3pm. Kraig is doing all the scheduling and sponsorships are pending. There will be no clinics this winter, possibly next summer.

Ice Rink: The expansion to the rink received last season should be delivered this weekend or next. It is a 1hr setup (EZ Ice setup). It requires someone to check on it through the season and add water as needed. A hydrant is needed to do the initial filling.

Community: Emily from the Walpole Parent Teacher Group (WPTG) spoke to Kraig about their committee having purchased a foam cannon, but the event needed to be moved indoors. They are interested in collaborating on planning events and the opportunity to use their cannon.

Budget: The budget was discussed briefly with a request for everyone to review the budget for items to be considered and discussed during the next meeting on Wednesday December 13th. The Selectboard is meeting with each Director on Friday December 15th to discuss the final changes to their budgets.

Residents: Mike Hayes wanted to discuss Diane Harty's desire to place a pickleball court in North Walpole Park. He understood the Town's position on not allowing a donation of a court from vendors who do regular business with the Town but thought perhaps a sub committee could look further into getting a court put up there.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm

Cheryl Mayberry