

Walpole Recreation Committee

Minutes of 2/14/2024

Members Present: Scott Rodenhauer (Chair), Diane Harty (Recreation Committee Vice-Chair) and Marilou Blaine

Members Absent: Kraig Harlow (Recreation Director)

Guests: Cheryl Mayberry (Selectboard Liaison).

6:05 pm: The Chair started the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and asked Cheryl if she would take the minutes. Also set a 5 min limit on each topic.

Approval of Minutes: The November 8th, 2023, minutes were moved by Marilou's and seconded by Diane, the minutes were approved 2 Yes and 1 abstention. January 10th, 2024 minutes were moved by Diane and seconded by Marilou, the minutes were approved 2 Yes and 1 abstention.

Recreation Committee Members: The board acknowledged the resignation of David Kuniholm, and the resignation has already been accepted by the Selectboard. Letters of interest were received by 3 different residents: Anne Ewaskio, Katie Beam and Mike Hayes. There was a discussion about increasing the size of the committee to allow all interested people to participate. Opinions were expressed about more delegation, sustainability, participation, and overall good intentions. Diane moved to accept all 3 letters of interest and was seconded by Marilou. Scott will reach out to all 3 individuals to verify that they are still interested in participating before sending the committee's recommendation(s) to the Selectboard.

Director's Job Description: Job description was sent out so that everyone knows what responsibilities lie with the director's position to allow the committee to monitor and support the position.

Pickleball: There was a short discussion regarding the positive feedback received at the prior meeting. Scott will coordinate with Kraig to provide some detailed clarifications on the short-term plan. Kim Lewis has shared some information regarding the long-term plan for consideration. There was some discussion regarding the availability of applying for grant funds to support the long-term plan.

Age in Motion: The fans for class use were discussed. They were purchased and are being stored downstairs until needed. There was discussion regarding the wages for the instructor, who has asked if an increase in her hourly rate is possible and how much the class costs and the income that has been received from participants. Cheryl agreed to get with Rich to understand how the funds are being processed. The discussion regarding the wages was tabled till the next meeting.

Basketball: In Kraig's absence, Scott indicated that the season was ending this weekend with a final practice to follow. There was mention of inconsistencies in referee calls and the possibility of finding some middle ground along with finding more people to officiate. Overall, the season was a great experience for the kids.

Ice Rink: It hasn't been cold enough for the rink to be used.

Pool: Cheryl suggested the committee talk about adding shading to the pool this coming year. We need to talk to Stephanie and Kraig to determine what is needed. The Women of Walpole have graciously offered to provide 2 family members to residents in need within our community. Marilou will reach out to Stephanie about the cost.

Whitcomb Park: There was discussion about perhaps adding some benches to the park. Diane mentioned that like North Walpole's Park, maybe people may be interested in donating a bench in memory of a loved one. Suggestions for posting in the Clarion. More discussion is needed. Mr. McDougle located a rock at the park that has a missing plaque. There has been some discussion and research trying to identify what the plaque said to consider its replacement.

North Walpole Park: Diane provided an update. Prep/Cleanup will be in May and may involve students from the school. Kelly does the mulching, and the park does not currently have raised beds but there's interest in pursuing this to plant herbs for community use. Looking into a possible yard sale in the park this spring.

Drewsville Common: 2 of last summer's 3 movies were shown on the common. The 3rd movie was shown in NW Park. All the movies were well attended, and they would like to offer all 3 movies in the same locations this summer.

Mill Pond: Scott expressed some interest in having recreational activities at other locations outside of the Rec area. Some ideas: Trail Walk and Hike to Table Rock. There was discussion about the possibility of coordinating with other groups like the Trail Committee which is part of Conservation.

Next Meeting Date: March 13th, 6 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm