

Meeting Minutes

Town of Southborough

Recreation Commission Meeting

Remote Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Commission members in attendance: J. Hansen, R. O'Day, D. Dumont

Commission members absent: K. LaVault

J. Hansen called meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Judith Watson joined us from the Implementation Committee to discuss the Rec Committee's goals in the Master Plan

- Here to communicate goal to make sure MPC is active/fluid -assist if certain areas are in need of help.
- Question of where responsibility falls between the Commission and the Dept.
- K. LaVault kept us posted on the MPC
- J. Hansen: no real questions regarding our portion of the MPC. One comments about sidewalks
- Went through Objectives, Goals and Recommendations
 - T. Davis – question re golf course improvements. We do not work with the golf course because it is managed by an outside management company. J. Watson confirms the ultimate responsibility for this lies with the golf course, not with recreation
 - T. Davis covered progress toward goals and recommendations in the Master Plan. Have made progress on goals and have achieved some of the goals.
 - J. Watson noted that a number of the goals involve involvement from other groups/committees
 - T. Davis: continue to remain transparent on expenditures. Overall, much of what was in the MPC we knew we wanted to accomplish, and getting it in the MP helped us – purposefully and actively working on the goals that were included.
 - J. Watson: unless something comes up, will meet with you every six months. Will do a summer check-in in six months.

General Dept. Updates

- RAP 5 just announced. RAP 3 has wrapped up today. In December, partnered with Southborough Youth basketball – very successful (57 athletes). Successful season. Ski and snowboard ended today – no issues.

- Spring/summer camp registration. Summer camp mailer went out. Will hold resident only registration for first 48 hours (March 6), then open to general public. Hiring staff and holding interviews week of Feb. break. Far ahead from a planning perspective.
- Spring 2023 – permitting is done. Will adjust as needed when schedules come out. Rugby will come back, number of sports.
 - J. Hansen – for Liberty will follow-up
- FOSR donation
 - Large donation from Gobble Wobble proceeds – donation will cover summer nights fireworks show and part of the band
 - Summer concerts – net zero.
 - March delivery date for van – will cover decaling of van and purchase of GPS
 - Trunk or Treat – not yet approved, wanted to explore possibility of our purchase of inflatables instead of renting. Thank you.
- Trails Committee Bid Update
 - Received final edits from Counsel. Will go live on 2/24 and schedule will be built from there.
 - Additional fencing funding – will kickoff next week (not going out to bid).
- Part time staff appointments:
 - Chris Gazarian – pottery instructor. Teaching adult pottery class. Rate: \$23.57
 - Nancy Aviles – RAP 1:1 aide. Will continue this coming sessions. Rate: \$15.54
 - Ashley Ly – assistant for kids pottery class. \$15
 - Lisa Wagoner – was already approved.
 - D. Dumont made a motion to approve these rates. Roll call vote: Hansen yes O’Day yes Dumont yes. Unanimously approved.
- Updated Camp Refund Policy
 - If a refund is requested 180 days after original registration date. A household credit will be granted and applied to your online account, minus the applicable cancellation fee above.
 - So, if past this period instead of refunding will get a credit to be used for future recreation programs.
 - D. Dumont made a motion to approve this language. Roll call vote: Hansen yes O’Day yes Dumont yes. Unanimously approved.
- Security improvements at South Union
 - Programs are growing – adult yoga, kids yoga. Some concern about security of the building with all of the new programs in different locations of the building. Came up with a plan to put in security cameras in building for an added

lawyer of protection for the department and the teachers. Should be just under \$500. To outfit pottery room, big and small room upstairs and the foyer between youth and family and rec. There will be signage put up with the cameras.

- Pickleball rec Hours vs Public (votes to be taken)
 - Issue: our courts were entered onto a website (playtime scheduler) – and it is highlighted as a public court. Tried to get it taken down because up without consent, but unsuccessful. How can we mitigate large crowds coming to Finn during the school day
 - David Rueger – has been out contact with organizing pickleball players and would keep T. Davis updated. Would not be renting the courts and paying, just guaranteed time they wont be swarmed.
 - Options: concerns over usage given proximity to Finn. Prior pickleball usage at Neary – did not have an official arrangement, but used the courts with T. Davis being aware of the usage. D. Dumont – what if it is a recreation program with this group being responsible for it? Essentially, hire one individual and they are in charge of those times, and during school hours capacity is limited. Westborough has done resident-only hours to mitigate the crowds. We could do resident-only school hours on weekdays (until 3pm). This would be accomplished through signage and advertising. We can provide a heads-up to Finn.
 - J. Hansen made a motion to designate the Finn courts as resident only during weekdays. Seconded by D. Dumont. Roll call vote: Hansen yes O’Day yes Dumont yes. Unanimously approved.
- **Request to host babysitting hours at Town Meeting**
 - School will have extended day staff and others to host babysitting during Town Meeting. T. Davis offered to share our volunteers to assist
 - Motion to approve meeting minutes from December 13, 2022 (D. Dumont) Second Hansen. Unanimously approved.
 - Next meeting scheduled for 3/21/23 unanimous approval