

Barrington Recreation Department

105 Ramsdell Ln. Barrington, NH 03825

603-664-5224



Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2024

Barrington Town Gym- 5:30pm

Present: Dale Sylvia, Scott Ramsey, Brian Collopy, Jessica Tennis, Sarah Bailey

Guests:

Selectboard Liaison: Not in attendance

Call to Order: Dale called the meeting to order at 5:33pm

Old Business:

Approval of past minutes: Brian motioned to approve the November 20, 2023 minutes, Scott seconded. Vote unanimous.

New Business:

Jessie presented the Q4 Bill and had the Commissioners sign it.

Program Report: There was a total of 565 participants in December.

Jessie presented the updated college scholarship form. This year's form is a fillable PDF and application submissions must be typed. Jessie also created a scoring matrix to standardize the selection process. The Commission discussed the application and revised some of the questions. The application will be posted online by February 5.

Revolving Fund Report:

Beginning Balance: \$702,596.01

Ending Balance: \$546,199.36

Jessie presented the Revolving Fund projections. The Commission discussed project priorities for the Department and will be discussing them further once the Town Vote takes place.

Jessie will re-advertise an RFP for the recreation garage in February to ensure we have up to date numbers, pending the results of voting in March.

Jessie updated the commission on upcoming program registrations and summer programming.

Jessie presented the TIF district information.

From the Town Website: The plan is to buy the 13-acre vacant lot in-between Calef's Country Store, the Post Office, MD Motors (formerly Knight's Garage), and the Elementary School and establish a Barrington Commons park with gathering and recreation features. Additionally, the plan calls for improvements to the Town Center area including school zone signs, crosswalk(s), and more. To pay for this plan, residents are asked to consider establishing a tax increment financing district which would capture taxes from new development within the district to pay for the plan. The proposed Barrington Commons and Town Center Tax Increment Financing District is an approximately 484 acre district (~1.5% of Barrington) which captures commercial, public, and recreation property along Routes 9 and 125 in the Barrington Town Center area. This is a plan to preserve Barrington's character and to spur economic development in Barrington's Town Center. Barrington has focused much time and energy on the development of a Town Center. This has included the [2007 Town Center Plan](#), [2014 Community Profile](#), [Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan](#), [updates to the Master](#)

[Plan](#), and various changes to the [Zoning Ordinance](#) and [Zoning Map](#) focused on the Town Center. The vision for this part of Barrington has always included extensive civic use/open space which preserves Barrington's character and supports the desire for commercial development. The footnote of that vision which has regularly been ignored is; how to fund the type of civic use/open space which residents desire. A tax increment financing district would create that funding source by utilizing only the added tax value from within the district.

The Commission discussed Recreation's involvement and the details of the whole proposed TIF District. Scott asked what the Department needed from the Commission. Jessie asked that, if the Commissioners support the project, they help spread the word to the community. The commission agreed that they support the opportunity for recreational development in the Town Center. The Commission agreed to hold a work session on March 13 to solidify priorities following the Town Election on March 12. The time of the March work session was not determined.

Brian motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:42, Dale seconded.

Scott Roy 3/25/24

 03/25/2024

Dale P. M. 3/25/24