

Barrington Recreation Department

105 Ramsdell Ln. Barrington, NH 03825

603-664-5224



Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

December 18th, 2023

Barrington Town Gym- 5:30pm

Present: Dale Sylvia, Scott Ramsey, Fred Tester, Jessica Tennis

Guests:

Selectboard Liaison: Not in attendance

Call to Order: Dale called the meeting to order at 5:31pm

Old Business:

Approval of past minutes: Both June and November minutes were tabled as quorum was not present.

New Business:

Program Report: There were a total of 377 participants in November.

Revolving Fund Report:

Beginning Balance: \$652,031.03

Ending Balance: \$702,596.01

Jessie informed commissioners that the 2024 operating budget had been reviewed and recommended by the ABC with minimal changes. The budget was also approved by the selectboard.

Jessie gave an overview of the before/after school program registration process; community needs and program structures over the last 5+ years. After reviewing the data, number of returning families, registration process, employee time, etc. the recreation staff proposed an in-house link that would be available for currently enrolled BAC families, prior to opening the link to the community. This new structure would streamline many processes including the entire registration process, participant registration packets, deposits, financial overhead, payment tracking, ultimately making these more efficient for Recreation staff. Jessie explained that anyone with a current household balance (more than 2 weeks) would not be eligible to enroll for the following year until their balance has been paid off. Dale made a motion to approve the proposal as presented with Fred Testor as a 2nd. The vote was unanimously approved.

Jessie reviewed the grant application submitted 11/30/23. She explained that the warrant article will not include the additional \$500,000 as originally planned, as we want to ensure acceptance of the grant if awarded. Grant recipients are anticipated to hear by early March. If awards have not been announced by voting day, the warrant will remain on the ballot to ensure acceptance of the grant if chosen as a recipient.

Jessie explained that she has been working with the Barrington Chamber of Commerce to get surrounding groups, businesses, and organizations to the same table to talk about events and collaboration throughout Barrington. We are excited for the opportunity to expand collaboration, avoid duplication of events and encourage Barrington residents to attend events for organizations they may not be aware of. The group will be meeting again in January to discuss upcoming 2024 dates.

Jessie explained that the scholarship fund was established for participants with financial struggles. The application can be requested, filled out and submitted to the Recreation office. The Recreation Director and town welfare department will review all applications to determine eligibility. Scott suggested making it clearer what the scholarship is, as he assumed this was regarding the college scholarship. We will be referring to the college scholarships as “college scholarships” to ensure everyone knows what scholarship we are referring to. Jessie explained that we had one fundraiser for the event with Karate International. We had 36 kids, raising \$360 for this fund. Wildlife Encounters also generously donated a 45-minute show for all 36 participants. We are looking into offering a women’s self defense class with Quest Martial Arts with all proceeds going to the scholarship fund. However, those dates and details have not been fine tuned at this time.

The Recreation Department is not offering gift cards! This is a new, exciting opportunity we have with the new software system. We envision these being utilized as holiday gifts, birthday gifts, etc. to provide experiences for anyone looking to join recreational programs.

Old Business:

Due to staffing constraints and minimal numbers within the KAP program, we have decided to condense both locations into one program located at BES. This change will take place after the new year. All parents and staff have been notified of this change without any concerns. We will keep this structure for the 2023-2024 registration process.

Adult Drop-In Memberships were discussed. Starting January 1st, all participants will be required to purchase the annual adult drop-in membership making them eligible for all drop-in programs such as basketball, pickleball and soccer. These fees will ensure all equipment is safe and usable and can be replaced/upgraded as needed. The cost is \$50 for residents and \$65 for non-residents.

Deck the House was offered, with 9 houses joining the contest. We are excited to share that we held our first ever “Holiday light tour”, with 6 participants total. We had a great time looking at lights as we drove around Barrington and hope to add to this program next year with a potential cookie swap, hot cocoa, etc. Dale recommended a Halloween light tour which was immediately denied.

Jessie explained that she will update the meeting dates on the January agenda. She reminded commissioners that the first few months are a little different due to holidays. Dale recommended we discuss meeting dates in January to ensure commissioners are on the same page between January and March as we head into budget/warrant season. Jessie will add this to the agenda for the January meeting.

Scott motioned to end the meeting at 6:12pm. Scott seconded.