

# Barrington Recreation Department

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603-664-5224



## Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Barrington Town Gym- 5:30pm

Present: Dale Sylvia, Scott Ramsey, Brian Collopy, Matt Mooers, Dave Johnson, Jessica Tennis, Sarah Bailey

Guests: Susan Gaudiello, Fred

Selectboard Liaison: Not in attendance

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

Old Business:

Approval of past minutes: Dale motioned to approve the March 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes. Scott seconded, vote unanimous.

New Business:

Program Report: There were a total of 783 participants in the Month of April. The increase is due to running T-Ball after taking a year off for the Wall Project, the Egg Hunt, and pickleball.

The Department will be starting a Theatre program over the summer. There will also be a summer session of Yoga hosted between the ECLC and the gym. The Department is also looking into a paddle board/ kayak/ canoe rental program. The Commission discussed preliminary logistics of the program.

Revolving Fund Report:

Beginning Balance: \$514,985.73

Ending Balance: \$559,035.52

The Commission discussed the Revolving Fund projections.

The van is anticipated to arrive in July.

Jessie has a meeting with Will Lenharth to discuss the pavilion.

The Commission discussed scholarship applications. The commission reached a consensus that Candidate B: Mackenzie Quick would receive the \$3,000 scholarship and Candidate D, Savannah Collinsworth, would receive the \$2,000 scholarship.

The Commission discussed the opportunities to improve the scholarship application process and standards for awarding. Dale suggested that everyone give Jessie their recommendations individually before the next meeting. The Commission agreed and discussed potential new questions. The Commission made suggestions and the Department will create an updated draft to present at the next meeting. Jessie explained the award process. Dale suggested sending rejection letters in addition to the winners. The Commission agreed. The Holy Rosery Credit Union has come to the Town with the idea of a Food Truck Festival on their property next to the Christmas Dove. Through conversations it has transformed into a Summer Concert Series for every other week in July and August. The collaborators are attending to present to the Planning Board tomorrow for final approval. The Commission discussed the project and the process of creating a band stand for the series. The structure will be temporary with a few options for future use.



Scott asked about the Sponsorship Program. Jessie updated the Commission on the program. The Department received its first sponsor for the Summer Soccer Program.

Jessie updated the Commission on the recreation software update. The Department has started training in the new system and will be going live to the community on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Summer Camp planning is well underway. The field has been seeded and the grass is growing. The fence will be reinstalled before the start of the camp. Jessie explained the new programs and activities for summer camp. There are still a few positions open for camp, the most important being a Lead Counselor. Jessie asked the Commission to spread the word.

Susan Gaudiello was in attendance to tell us about the Grant options from the federal National Endowment for the Humanities. The library is asking for 800k and they need to raise 3.2 million in additional funds, in order to qualify for the grant.

Local libraries have received grant funding previously; and she is hoping to offset the ask of the community.

Roger Gingrich reached out to Jessie for a letter of recommendation to show the collaboration between Recreational and Library offerings.

Ms. Tennis provided some formatting changes to the letter.

- 1) Changing Our two groups to; library trustees and Barrington Rec Commission:
- 2) Changing the very appealing one for which we have solid support.
- 3) Changing that the letter comes from Dale and not Jessie as an employee

Motioned to accept the letter with the changes by Dale and seconded by Brian.

Discussions regarding collaboration between the Recreation commission and Library trustee's took place. Susan explained the history of each attempt and how attempt number three was the final attempt and were really looking at the needs of Barrington as a whole and how to enhance their third attempt from prior attempts. She explained the conversations that evolved during the prior Library trustee meeting and the concept of a "community Campus" between the two departments. She explained that the warrant article and bond could cover the construction of a new library in addition to the retrofitting of the upstairs for Recreation, eliminating the need for two separate warrant articles. Dale brought up the commission's hesitation with joining forces, as the library has not had success in the first two warrant article attempts. With that said, the Recreation department currently struggles with similar constraints that prohibit us from offering additional programs for Barrington residents. Collaboration between the two departments seems to provide more opportunity within both departments and is something the Recreation Commission was willing to consider. Through discussions, the Recreation commission requested something in writing from library trustees to show good faith that retrofitting remained a priority if funding became a concern and cuts needed to be made.

Although the Recreation Department is willing to consider this new "community campus" model, Jessie reiterated that revolving funds have already been allocated to ongoing Recreation improvements and would does not have funding available for conceptual plans. Dale reviewed the Revolving fund history. Jessie reiterated the department's history and the hesitation to spend revolving fund monies funds due to the potential of the department expanding upstairs, resulting in a large Revolving Fund balance. This balance took a number of years to accumulate, however starting in 2020 the department has been committed to making the necessary upgrades and has started to address the revolving funds, timelines, and projects.

Susan mentioned that she would talk to the trustees about this, however she felt that could be a potential to utilize the Library Capital Reserve & Community Center capital reserve to pay for conceptual drawings that would be required. Susan is going to go back to the library trustees to speak with their architect that they are currently using to see if we can

get included in that process. Jessie also pointed out that any retrofitting upstairs, regardless of who/what entity utilizes that space, has significant modifications already required in order to meet ADA accessibility requirements.

Ms. Tennis reiterated that this process allows the potential for expansion between both departments while also allowing each entity to remain separate. Rec is rec and library is library, future discussions about “programs” should take place to identify the role of each department to ensure we are not duplicating services already provided.

Scott brought up a question about the terms of the various library trustees’ terms and how we have a good understanding of the vision with the current trustees; and continuing that continuity as new trustees become appointed.

Jess will continue to attend the library trustees meeting to advocate for the Recreation Department and ensuring the two departments are working together.

Susan mentioned that Jim Saccoccia is going to be the select board representative to the library building committee. With him also serving as the Recreation liaison, we anticipate continuity between the trustee’s, commission and selectboard members. Susan asked for a list of questions that we can ask the architect so that we can start the process.

Dave made a motion to 7:24 PM and Brian seconded.

Scott Remy  
David John  
Ahr

6/19/23  
6/19/23

BR

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APPROVED

