

## **Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**May 16, 2022**

Present: Doug Langdon, David Johnson, Scott Ramsey, Jessica Tennis, Sarah Bailey

Guests:

Selectboard Liaison: Not in attendance

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00

Old Business:

Approval of past minutes:

Doug motioned to approve the March 24 and April 18 minutes as written. David seconded. Vote unanimous.

New Business:

Jessie informed the Commission that the Scholarship discussion was going to be postponed because Steve and Dale were unable to attend, and their input was important for the decision. Doug expressed that he felt that they should still be discussed because there was a quorum, and the three commissioners present reviewed the applications in preparation for the meeting. The quorum reviewed and discussed their thoughts on the candidates. A consensus was reached on the top three candidates. Doug suggested a short meeting to get a final vote before the next meeting so that the Commission's final decision could be announced before the end of the school year. David and Scott agreed. The history and growth of the scholarship was discussed.

Revolving Fund Overview:

Beginning Balance: \$553,302.53

Ending Balance: \$577,753.42

Doug asked if the Revolving fund documents could be sent to the Commission in the spreadsheet form instead of PDF. Jessie said she would look into it. Jessie informed the Commission that the department is in the process of exploring different credit card processors that. The Revolving Fund projections were presented. Jessie updated the commission on the miscellaneous projects. The Department is finalizing the office updates with new cabinets. A new shed was purchased for Soccer and Flag Football equipment. It will be located at the Elementary School.

Doug asked what the next large goals are for the Department and what is identified in the strategic plan. Jessie and Sarah said water access, infrastructure, and more diverse, multigenerational programs are next. Doug asked that there be a more formal plan for the October meeting.

Jessie presented the Participation Report for April. There were 382 total participants in April.

Jessie informed the Commission that there needs to be a vote for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Scott asked how long the term was. Jessie said there wasn't a set term. Doug asked if there were job descriptions available. There was a copy of the bylaws for each Commissioner. The Commission agreed to table the vote until the June meeting.

Jessie updated the commission on grant opportunities. The Town and Department have officially submitted an intent to apply to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant. There is a site walk through meeting scheduled. Required for the application was an estimated cost for the project. The project was estimated by CMA at \$500,000.00. The fill from the Highway Department did not pass the testing and is no longer an option for the park project. Doug asked if there was an overview for the \$500,000 estimate. Jessie said she would include it for next meeting.

Jessie explained that there was another round of Funding available from the New Hampshire Empowering Youth Program. The Department has applied for funding to establish a new program called the Teen Exploration, Adventure and Mentoring Program. The funding would also account for the purchase of a 15-passenger van to facilitate that program.

The purpose of the TEAM program will be to engage youths, ages 12-17, in programing that develops leadership, responsibility, collaboration, and self-confidence. Over the past few years of the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen declined participation in our teen community members. We have also seen a decline in our teen staff members. With the changes we've seen due to the pandemic paired with advancements in technology and screen time there has been an increase in youth mental health struggles. The era of social media has made teens constantly compare themselves to others and feel more alone and withdrawn than in previous generations. Our goal with the TEAM program is to foster an environment where teens can learn, develop, and grow into strong community members through connection, engagement, and friendship.

Doug suggested that the Department start keeping track of what Grants are applied for and what is awarded. The NHEYF Grants will be announced by May 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Fishing Derby is this Saturday. Zumba participation has declined so the instructors have decided to stop teaching the class. Yoga morning classes were cancelled for this session due to unforeseen circumstances for the instructor. The Walking Club has started. The Department collaborated with the 300<sup>th</sup> Committee for the Walking Club to create a scavenger hunt though the Cemetery to tie in Barrington History. Adult Drop-in Soccer will be starting in June.

The Commission and Department decided to hold the final Scholarship meeting next week. Jessica will reach out to Steve and Dale to get their input and confirm the vote meeting.

Doug motioned to adjourn at 7:06, David seconded, vote unanimous.

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