

Wallingford Recreation Committee

Minutes

November 15, 2022

Committee members present: Sumio Seo, Brian Ferguson & Shannon Pytlik

Public present: Brian Elliot, MR high school xc course, David Cornwell, interested in joining Rec, Gary Fredette

Meeting called to order at 6:00 due to late arrivals of members

- 1) Nominate Elect Chair - By consensus we decided to wait until we have more members to elect a new chair.
- 2) Approve the Minutes 9/20/22 - Motion by Brian, Second Sumio, to approve the minutes from 9/20/22. Motion passes.
- 3) Elfin Lake Concession Stand Update – Selectboard Update
Sumio stated the Selectboard would like to leave the concession stand the way it is. However, they are not opposed to maintenance.

The Rec committee feels the building needs work and we would need a plan and can't get a plan without looking into the code issues. We need to consider looking into upgrading the building before it is too late there because there is deferred maintenance.

Gary felt the plan needs to be scaled back but was surprised by the lack of support by the Selectboard after watching the meeting. He felt that the building needs significant work and given the lake is a gem of our community we should invest in it. He has worked with Jay White in the past and felt he was the best person we would get to do the work and gave us a good price. Jay has done all of the work for the town and school and done a great job and thinks he would be an asset to the project.

Shannon suggested having the code person for our region, Matthew Jakubowski, who also happens to be the head of Rec in Clarendon come and give us advice. We need to understand what is considered maintenance and what is not so we are sure we are doing it right. Matt is willing to come, and also discuss more collaboration within the region on recreation.

The group decided to make a list of maintenance items at next meeting but here is a start:

- Block is eroding on north wall, south wall pain is peeling and also eroding
- Bathrooms need upgrading – not ADA currently
- Dropped ceiling needs work
- Garage door is failing on one side
- Windows are boarded up
- Layout is awkward given the men's room is hard to find and they have no changing space, and the employees at check in can't see out the side of the building

Recreation Field Issues:

- Bleachers at rec are rotten – need replacing
- The bank of Otter Creek needs trees to prevent erosion and shade the bank
- No water – group is unanimously surprised the town didn't fix the water and Selectboard doesn't see this as an issue to have water at our recreation field

We also plan to make a pre season Rec list for next Spring – next meeting

4) Broken swing seats at Elfin Lake - ordered by Julie in the basement to be installed in the Spring.

5) Basketball Hoops @ Meadow Street

Sumio will ask Morgan the status of the basketball hoops. We don't know if they have been ordered or not.

We need to buy pads for under the hoop so people don't get hurt– Brian said can we buy things under \$500 without approval according to the town purchasing policy.

6) Recreation Survey

We discussed some revisions to the survey based on the Selectboard feedback. We plan to go back to the Selectboard for approval. We discussed doing it as an electronic survey with paper copies at town hall for people who don't have access online. Discussed adding things like bingo to the survey.

Many grants ask for documentation of community support for funds so we want to get a broad idea of what people want so we can justify our requests to funders. We want to work on items that are a priority for the town, and this is the only way to find out what the town wants for Recreation.

7) New Business:

X country Track – Brian Elliot, the Mill River cross country coach, mapped out a 5k course at the Meadow Street Park and Stone Meadow Park that could use for home races. There is a planned race on September 23, 2023 and Mill River is the backup for the October 21, 2023 race. Currently the kids run around the Mill River school at races and Brian would like a better option for when they host races. The races are in morning.

If we establish the course moving forward everyone can be aware of the course and it can be used for meets, as well as locals. The course would start at baseball fields, loops around sports complex twice across the bridge on trails to lake and then around trails at Stone Meadow.

The Rec members discussed the following items:

- How many people would come, parking, etc – It would start with about 30 kids
- Liability – first aid on hand school. Brian will check with Athletic Director about insurance for school – town would likely want a release of some kind.

- We know the date but would need to make sure nothing else is happening the same day – like football.
- There would be no financial investment on behalf of the town.
- Extra parking could be at WES and people can walk to field if need be.
- Ask Conservation Commission if they have any issue with it.
- The event would bring people to our community and support businesses.
- Will need the get approval from the Selectboard, we will ask to be on the agenda in early January.



Proposed cross country race layout.

Budget

- Sumio and Shannon will meet with Julie to get an overview of the budget
- Discussed baseball needs for budget – we will meet with RCLL in December
- Water – Shannon gave an overview of her involvement. As she recalls, the water was vandalized and turned off. We think it was now covered over when the basketball court was resurfaced. The remaining Long Trail funds was offered to get the water turned on and the prior Selectboard went around and around about it but never decided. They were concerned about vandalism, which could be dealt with by putting water fountains in like the state parks that automatically turn off. Water is a big issue volunteers had to haul in water for Wallingford Day and there is no water for all of the recreation activities down there. The last thing Shannon recalls from the discussion with the Selectboard was they wanted to put the water in the little building, which is practically never open so would not serve the need of the community. She will research emails and send along to the group.

Beach Erosion Update

- Shannon updated the group to the meeting. Great progress is being made on coming up with a plan to reduce the erosion. Fitzgerald Environmental will come up with a few alternatives and ask the community for input. We were wondering if we could piggy back our questionnaire on this outreach.

Recreation Committee Vacancies

- By consensus the group agreed to forward David Conwell's name to the selectboard to become a member of the Rec Committee.

8) Public Comment – Comments made during the meeting

9) Next Agenda –

- Budget
- Concession
- Maintenance Needs – list
- Survey
- Basketball Hoop – pads for base post
- Baseball – RCLL visit to discuss baseball field maintenance

10) Adjourn at 7:45