

Wallingford Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 11, 2024, 5:30 PM

Committee members: Brian Ferguson (left at 6:30), Shannon Pytlik, Mark Noble & David Cornwell

Public Present: Heather Johnson (interested in joining Wallingford Rec lives on the border of Wallingford in Mt Tabor), Sarah Kumm (Clarendon Rec), Sandra Hochberg (Wallingford resident interested in joining rec), Mike Robilotto (RCLL baseball) and Jessie Williams (Wall/Clarendon softball)

Motion to call meeting to order at 5:30

Approve agenda

Motion by David, seconded by Mark to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approve minutes

by David, seconded by Shannon, so approve the minutes from 12/12/13. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mark explained there are issues with offering recreation programs in town because of the insurance requirement. He did some research and found a supplement plan the town could buy or people could buy into that would cover liability.

Mark also received a 2k grant for recreation and said there is a lot more money available. The committee agreed there is a lot of potential for grants but they require a significant investment in time to apply for. Having dedicated staff to work on recreation would be beneficial to the community accessing grant funds.

Mark noted the town has given the softball group funding over the years for equipment and wanted to know where the equipment is being stored and when it would be returned to the town. Mark stated softball is run by the town.

Jessie Williams has been managing softball for many years. He has an inventory of the equipment and has some parents willing to take over the softball program as his children have aged out of it. Jessie and the new managers of softball will work with Wallingford Rec to figure out the equipment inventory and where it should be kept. It can be stored in the town shed. Softball registration is \$50 /child and there are about 25 girls participating in softball. David is willing to meet Jessie to take over the equipment.

Shannon noted that the town doesn't run baseball or softball programs, although we have contributed funds to the softball program over the years and put money and effort toward field maintenance. She was aware of 2 payments to softball, one from Long Trail and another from the town for softball equipment. She noted we all want to offer quality accessible programs for youth and that is the priority.

Sarah is attending the meeting as a Clarendon Recreation Committee member who is interested in working with Wallingford. The Wallingford Rec group felt there was a lot of potential for regional collaboration and is looking forward to working with Clarendon Rec and see if we can coordinate on rec offering and pool our resources.

Budget

1) Review 23/34

The group reviewed the information Julie provided. They noted two donations. One for \$250 from Wayne Kelly of West Hill Rd and \$650 made in Ed Lord's memory. They discussed options for the donations and thought maybe they should reach out to the family and see what they would want to see it used for.

2) Discuss line items and remaining fund priorities

Discussion tabled for next meeting.

3) Budget - Proposed 24/25

We were not able to attend the meeting when they discussed our proposed budget. David will ask when the budget needs to be finalized.

Maintenance needs at Meadow Street Park and Elfin Lake

The group discussed the agreement that was previously made with RCLL for them to maintain the baseball fields. In addition to routine maintenance the fields have flood damage. We do not know if FEMA will cover the damage, but David will check in with Sandy and see if there is any update.

The Rec budget doesn't have funds to cover the significant damage that occurred, especially the south field that washed away and there remain holes of sand.

Mike said RCLL does not need two formal baseball fields and could put lines in the grass for t-ball if a second field wasn't available. The group discussed that it may be less costly and less maintenance over time to maintain the south field as grass. This would also allow that area to be used for other sports as well, like soccer, football or ultimate frisbee.

The north field also needs work and is estimated to need 2 loads of clay and new bases. Last time we purchased clay it was \$700/load. RCLL orders bases from a sponsor at about 1k and RCLL can coordinate the volunteer work if we get the supplies. Rec has no budget for field maintenance given our maintenance line item was very small to begin with and most of it was used to cover the cost of a plugged toilet at Elfin Lake last summer. We will have to check in on FEMA funds and will discuss further with RCLL when we have an idea if any funding will come to repair the fields.

A few members of the public stated the portable bathroom was very dirty during baseball season.

Motion by Brian seconded by Shannon to put the RCLL on the next agenda to discuss what the fields need for improvements and how much budget that would take to make the fields useable. Motion passed.

Water at Meadow Street Park

The group discussed the issue with the water line not being where the water district said it would be. We know the water line is working without a leak because the water district turned on the water when we were there to excavate the hole. The simplest way to get water accessible at the park is to install a new vandal proof spigot at the existing spigot location near the skateboard ramp.

Mark found a vandal proof spigot and he will ask FW Webb for a price.

New Rec Member Interest

We have two people interested in joining Wallingford Rec Committee, Heather Johnson and Sandra Hochberg. The group discussed the issue of Heather living in Mt Tabor and whether that was an issue to join the Wallingford Recreation. We will have to ask Sandi.

We currently have a 5 member board but given the amount of work that needs to be done we would support increasing the number to include more people to get more accomplished.

Motion by David, seconded by Mark to recommend the appointment of Sandra Haukberg to the Rec Committee. Sandra will send a letter of interest to Sandi.

We will look into whether Heather can join if she is a Mt Tabor resident with a Wallingford mailing address. The board asked Heather to stay involved either way and welcomed her to meetings and work days.

Upcoming Rec Options

- Ballroom dancing started this week with a slow start. Hopefully they will get more interest. The instructor received the key from Sandi.
- Other options?

Next Meeting Agenda Building

- Meadow St park maintenance needs – what still needs to be completed based on the VLCT assessment
- Baseball field maintenance needs
- Rec program budget line item – what is a priority for a program or equipment to support program
- Liability insurance as it relates to new rec programs

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 by Shannon, seconded by David. Motion carried.

Minutes Approved: 02/08/24