

Wallingford Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 8, 2024, 5:30 PM

Committee members: Shannon Pytlik, Mark Noble, Brian Ferguson & Sandra Hochberg

Public Present: Heather Johnson, Mike Robilotto (RCLL baseball) and Sean Brothers.

David was not at the meeting so Shannon called the meeting to order at 5:34

Approve agenda

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

Approve minutes

Motion by Shannon, seconded by Mark to approve the minutes from 01/11/24 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Public comment – None

Rec member interest from outside of Wallingford

The group discussed the idea of requesting approval from the Selectboard for the Recreation Committee to be increased to 7 members and to ask if we could have a member from just outside of our community join the committee. There was discussion about whether this is a good idea, given the recent dilemma about a school board members residence. The Recreation Committee does oversee some tax dollar expenditures so some may not see a non residents participation as appropriate.

Shannon asked Sandi about how this has been handled in the past and she said different boards have handled this issue differently. The Rec Committee members asked Heather if she would be willing to help with the committee for now as she is willing as a non-voting participant.

Meadow St park maintenance needs – Tabled to next meeting when David is present.

Baseball field maintenance needs & FEMA insurance

We do not know if FEMA will cover the damage to the ball fields. FEMA took measurements and may be paying for the damage but we are not positive. We received an e-mail from Sandi stating we should keep receipts and a log of volunteer hours. Shannon asked for clarification that the Selectboard was ok fronting the money and hoping we get reimbursed since we do not have the budget to cover the repairs. Sandi suggested the Recreation Committee come back to the Selectboard again. Mark will go back and request approval for an “up to” amount based on the budget outlined below. Phil Baker offered to truck material for us, which will save on cost.

Selectboard approved moving material from south field to the north field. The plan is to make the south field a grass field.

The Plan moving forward:

- Move any remaining clay material from the south field to the north field
- Fill in the south field with dirt and seed it
- For this year t-ball and coach pitch will be spraypainted field somewhere in the grass

- Maybe Wallingford Crushed Stone would donate fill material for the hole that will be in the south field

Budget should include:

- 1-2 load of clay for north field (in addition to moving material from the south field)
- Seed and fill for the south field

We planned a workday for April 6th

RCLL – with other towns they offer to maintain the fields, have a clean up day, maintain the bathrooms, and do not get charged for the use of the fields. They do not want to pay for the field use, but the board may be willing to contribute some funds to the maintenance.

In the past RCLL agreed to maintain the Wallingford fields but there is some confusion about what that means now that the field was flooded. There is no budget line item for field maintenance in our budget since in the past the registration fees went back into the fields. If a budget line item is needed we would need to discuss this with the selectboard during budget season. Even without flood damage we are thinking the fields would require a load of clay each year and a work day, plus replacement of bases, wood replaced as it rots, fence repairs, paint for dugouts etc.

Michael from RCLL agreed to talk to his board about purchasing the new bases as their contribution to the maintenance expenses associated with the fields for this year. Bases are about 1k. The Recreation Committee agreed that was a reasonable contribution and hopes we can get the fields repaired with the FEMA funds.

Rec program budget line item

We should decide what the best investment would be in town recreation programs of this budget line item. There is \$750 to offer recreation programs to the community. We should review the survey results and discuss future recreation options. This is a separate line item from the youth line item.

Liability insurance as it relates to new Rec programs

We need to get in writing what the town wants for coverage for running recreation programs. Mark said he was told as long as programs are run by rec our insurance covers the activity, which is much different then what Shannon was told in the past.

Come Alive Outside uses Eventbrite for sign ups. We discussed how some sign up apps have the liability waiver built in and many communities use myrec.com, but it is expensive.

Future Rec Ideas

The group discussed future recreation ideas we could offer the community.

- o chess night
- o drop in pickle ball
- o walking group

Next Meeting Agenda Building

Recreation liability requirements – clarity from Sandi

Meeting adjourned at 7 PM