

Draft Minutes 5/15/25
Wallingford Recreation Committee

Minutes taken by David Cornwell

Meeting called to order at 5:00

Attending: David C, Shannon, P, Sandra H. Absent: Mark N, Brian F.

Shannon: Upcoming Executive Session of Select Board to address shared concerns. Scheduled at 6:15
– Select Board can request participation at their discretion.

Discussion around shared challenges finding meeting time that works for all members as everyone is busy with multiple obligations. Desire to find the time that works best for a quorum of members, but acknowledged the difficulty of getting all members to be present.

Update around RCLL and MRU field use. MRU softball is using softball field for games (per Shannon) – is updating field use calendar as needed.

Discussion around field use/maintenance. Consensus that MRU Softball needs to line field, do some maintenance; can't expect us to do this for games. Consensus that we need to have agreements from all organizations who wish to use town fields, in writing, pre-season around maintenance work.

David will email Kim Maniery regarding Softball field use and what we can/can't provide and to request a reasonable level of field maintenance this season as they use it. Also clarification around North baseball field use for practice and games (vs. just games as Kim has presented to MRU Board).

Noted that there will be a work day this Saturday 5/17 to spread new clay on the South Baseball field. RCLL coaches/family/players will be there with some Rec Committee members to help out/supervise. Work is set to start at 8:30.

Committee agreed that we are just too busy to organize a Elfin Lake Work Day. Discussion of having summer staff do some “opening” work. Will discuss with Sandi what needs to be done before we can unlock the park and “open it” for the season and unlocking the gate.

David will email Sandi regarding this topic. Will post date on FPF once decided.

Summer movies: Would like to get grant \$ spent to pay for license to show. Set date of 7/18 (night before Wallingford Day) as date to show movie. Baseball theme: *The Sand Lot*. Possible community game first – taped whiffle ball vs tennis ball so no one would get hurt (all ages play). Looking to schedule a second movie closer to when school starts – possible “back to school” theme? Possible BBQ at movie night (hot dogs?).

Updates around signage. Shannon has purchased some “Handicapped Parking” signs for both parks. One will replace damaged/vandalized sign.

Agreed (by consensus) to spend \$300 to hire local graphics designer Jane Duda. Jane does the signage for Wallingford Day and has helped Shannon with event flyers. Jane will work with the board to design new signage for Meadow St. Park. We may also be able to continue a common theme to other recreational areas in town. Will address one of the VCLT concerns; better signage. Looking to create

local Wallingford-based theme. Cost of printing signs will come from 25-26 budget, but design from 24-25 budget. Sandra is willing to meet with artist at Elfin to help in design process.

Discussion of mowing and FAS Contract. Can FAS mow/weed whack around tennis court to prevent trees from growing from existing root systems. Or, we could do it with lawn mower Mark has agreed to donate if this isn't possible given current contract language. Shannon will inquire with Sandi about what is in the FAS contract.

Looking to have FAS do some landscaping on north side of Meadow St. parking lot: weed barrier, mulch and low/no maintenance plants. Move ties and other debris. Also, replace ties in parking "island" with new ties. Have funds in budget for this project (up to \$1000). Agreed by consensus. Discussion of next steps for invasive Japanese Knot-weed at park. Agreement that this topic should be tabled for the time being, but want to prevent spread.

Update on water at park. Shannon and Sandra has met with plumber from Master Plumbing. Bought parts to explore fixing existing valve/pump. Plumber thought this might be possible. Time of plumber would be donated for the initial phase, we will pay for materials. Also moving forward with new valve behind north baseball field. Shannon is working on this.

Reviewed proposed Rec Committee Mission Statement. Made changes to "Task 1" and "Makeup of Board" language by consensus. Shannon will make changes and submit it to Select Board.

Agenda Building for next meeting:

- 1) Post-Season meeting with MRU and RCLL parties to discuss
 - a. Roles and responsibilities for field use/maintenance
 - b. Third party to discuss/set standards for what a field should look like – ie, set field standards for "acceptable" or "ready to use".
- 2) Agreed that need a neutral party to set/manage field use of all baseball (and other) fields used by multiple organizations (RCLL, MRU, etc).

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.