

Lancaster Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

3/7/17

Attendees:

- Recreation Director: Christa Duprey
- Recreation Committee Members: Johnna Doyle, Joe Kennedy, Ted Manning, Jeanne Blauner, and Katie O'Riorden
- Public: Sherri Cutler, Cliff McMullan, Matt Hourihan

Meeting Agenda:

- Public Comment Period
- Scheduled Appearances and Public Hearing
- Treasurer's Report
- Recreation Director Update
- Recreation Committee Update
- Old and New Business
- Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting Summary:

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Public Comment: None

Scheduled Appearances:

- Matt Hourihan: Little League
- Tryouts are scheduled for later in the month; 1 major team, 2 minor, 4 coach pitch, and 3 tee-ball.
- Gym time to be scheduled for practice; Mon/Wed for Little League, Tues/Thurs for girls' softball.
- Matt would prefer the gym to be scheduled for 5-8, 3 nights a week.
- Christa will look into scheduling.
- Anticipated Opening Day: April 22nd.
- Field clean up: April 1: Raindate: April 8.
- Need to maintain fields as they are not safe for play. There are weeds covering the softball infield and the diamond has a slight slope. The clay is a great play surface, but is hard to maintain by hand.
- Matt proposes a towable machine to grade, scarify, and finish the infield.
 - o Will need to be transported about every two weeks.
 - o Machine requested is the Dirt Medic. Cost: about \$2,000.
 - o Jeanne wants to know if it is going to make enough of a difference to warrant the money spent. Johnna suggests that Matt continue to do research as to how well this machine works and if anyone has had any experience with it. She also suggests he talk to the head groundskeeper at the high school to ask his thoughts.

- Sherri suggests a homemade, non-chemical spray for getting rid of weeds in field. Made from Dawn, vinegar, water, and salt.
- Matt proposes that we cost-share the machine between Little League, girls' softball, and Lancaster Recreation.
- Johnna suggests that we include Kevin Barlett from DPW in the discussion to make sure that we can tow the machine behind the tractors they currently use.
- Ted says that he isn't sure that that type of equipment is needed to maintain the fields. Johnna replies that the handheld drag is not enough to keep the fields in playable condition.
- Ted presents an idea that he said can be made by DPW for \$20-\$40 that will do the same as the equipment presented.
- Ted will talk to DPW and see if we can have equipment made and if it will work before considering the purchasing of the Dirt Medic.
- Johnna adds that we need to be sure that DPW will also drag the infield after they mow the fields once a week.
- Little League will be selling banners again this year. Girls' softball will be seeking out sponsorships as they did last year.

Treasurer's Report:

- J. Riley contacted Johnna and Joe and asked that they go to the Finance Committee Meeting to give an idea of how Lancaster Recreation is doing.
- Date of meeting is TBD.
- Johnna makes a motion to approve budget: Ted seconds. Unanimously approved.

Recreation Director Update:

- Signs for the ice rink have arrived.
- Open Space and Recreation meeting will take place tomorrow night, Wednesday, March 8th.
 - Recreation is listed under four categories: Adult, senior, youth, and children.
 - Once we update the plan we can apply for grant money.
 - The survey will go out by mail and will be online.
- The Annual Report was submitted.
- Field Maintenance
 - Christa met with Diamond Athletics and walked Thayer and Mill St. fields.
 - He didn't feel that the fields were too bad in regards to condition.
 - Gatsby Grounds gave an estimate on possible maintenance cost: \$2,939.
 - Ted comments that the cost is too low due to prevailing wages.
 - Johnna asks if they hire summer labor.
 - Christa will continue to do research on costs.
- Walks and Trails
 - Tim Hassner will do a walk on April 8th at the Town Forest.

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- Possible Thoreau walk in late June.
 - Christa has reached out to Corrine about a Garden Tour for late April/early May.
- Girls' Softball: Registrations are coming in.
- Adult Softball
 - Chris Cornelius was in touch about details of past seasons. Johnna would like to see 8 teams. Christa will advertise for another team.
- Johnna asks if we have contacted the Sherriff's office about hiring people for raking, etc. Will need to talk to them about fields and beach.
- Joe will be in touch with the office and will CC Christa on the email.
- April Vacation
 - Christa met with Rob from The Strand. Rental is \$300. Rob suggested a movie that is at least 10 years old and it can't be Disney.
 - Doors to open at 12; movie to start at 1.
 - Lunch concessions will be open. Ticket sales will go to Lancaster Recreation.
 - \$5.00 per person.
 - Tentative Date: Wednesday, April 19th.
 - Christa will put a survey up on Facebook about movie possibilities.

Recreation Committee Update:

- No update

Old and New Business

- Thayer Field
 - Win is chair of the Thayer Field Subcommittee.
 - The subcommittee has met once and they reviewed the information with the architect groups to be ready for the Planning Board meeting on March 27th.
 - Discussion was about about phasing and the position of the fields. Considered any way to move up the completion of the tennis courts.
 - Win will present at the Planning Board meeting.
 - Sherri asks if they talked about fundraising and grant writing, if they want to continue with the foundation and, if so, they need to find new members.
 - They talked with Noreen about finding grants. Noreen said that both the Thayer Field Foundation and Lancaster Recreation can find and apply for grants. Once we have a plan in place, we can begin fundraisers such as the "buy-a-brick" or "buy-a-bench" type. Subcommittee talked about finding town companies to help with some of the work by donating their time, but the plan needs to be in place first.
 - Sherri asks if Robert gave the name of the company who does the town playgrounds; he did not.

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- Katie asks who is in the playground group to talk about the design. Once they are at that point, they will have open meetings for anyone to come and give input.
- There is already money from a grant to begin on the playground.
- Noreen will start to research grants in late April.
- Christa will go to the Mass Recreation and Parks Association Conference in Worcester next week on Tuesday and Wednesday. She can gather ideas from vendors.
- The subcommittee will hold regular monthly meetings.
- Summer
 - Need to hire 5 lifeguards.
 - 2 parking attendants will return.
 - Johnna says that the jobs need to be posted. She will reach out at Nashoba Regional High School to see if there is any interest.
 - Need a backup instructor in case one is unable to make it.
 - Joe will reach out to New England Health and Safety for waterfront safety training.
 - Christa will advertise swim lessons.
 - Christa met with Marcus about Camp Craft.
 - Will have a meeting with beach staff in May.
 - Christa will touch base with the Greendale Y and ask if they will post for lifeguards and Water Safety Instructors.
 - Joe reminds Christa that we need to look into a payment device to take credit cards for the beach.
 - Christa proposes a kickball night.
 - Johnna says she would really like to see the kids' triathlon and recyclable boat race take place at the beach this summer.
 - Will look into paddle boards and canoes/kayaks for the beach this summer.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Joe makes a motion to approve the minutes from February 7th; Johnna seconds. Unanimously approved.
- February 16th Minutes: Question of whether attaching the sign-in sheet of attendees would suffice for the meeting minutes. Katie couldn't read all names on the list to include them on the minutes.
- Sign-in sheet will be attached.
- Johnna motions to approve the minutes from February 16th; Joe seconds. Unanimously approved.
- Christa requests \$225 to go to the Mass Recreation and Parks Association Conference in Worcester.
 - Johnna makes a motion to approve the \$225; Joe seconds. Unanimously approved.

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- Winterfest was perfect in terms of the weather. Attendance may have been a little low due to the fact that it was vacation week.
- Tomorrow night is the public forum for the Open Space and Recreation.

Meeting Adjourned: Joe makes a motion to adjourn; Johnna seconds. Unanimous.
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next meeting is to be held on April 4th at 7:00pm.