

Town of Stratham



Stratham Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes December 19, 2023

- I. At 7:03 Kate called the meeting to order.
- II. Members in attendance- Allison Knab, Kate Dardinski, Brent Scott, Rebecca Waltz, Ryan Guerette and Jessie Hook.
Guests- Seth Hickey (Parks & Recreation Director), Drew Goddard (Baseball Committee)
- III. Consideration of Minutes from previous meetings.
Jessie motioned to approve November minutes as written, Brent seconded motion. All in favor, motion approved. Rebecca motioned to approve October minutes as written, Brent seconded motion. All in favor, motion approved. Jessie motioned to approve September minutes as written, Rebecca seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.
- IV. Treasurer's Report- Ryan updated on November expenses.
- V. Report of the Stratham Parks & Recreation Director
Senior programming- Programs are full. Both Boxwood tree activities sold out. New classes include salsa dancing, how to fall safely, cooking and Veteran lunches. Looking to add more programs for males.
Youth Sports-Basketball started on December 2nd; 203 participants registered.
TMAC-Memo drafted regarding management of dogs at the trail network.
Stratham Hill Park-Baseball field work in preparation for 2024 season. The town will not be installing the NiceRink on basketball court this year. Pump track maintenance scheduled for April.
Stevens Park-Seth met with Bruce Scamman and David to discuss timeline and improvements. Bruce will attend Jan 18th Select Board meeting to discuss project and get community feedback
Projects include additional parking, a pavilion, bathrooms, additional court space and overall all upgrade of systems.
Programming/Events-
White Pine Program sold out-hoping to add a January session. Hoping to start programming with Timbernook in March. Pats Peak ski program sold out. McIntyre ski program registration is currently open. Community Bonfire to be held January 6th SHP. A kick off meeting was held for the 2024 Food Truck festival. Hoping to set up a Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day in May. Hope to add a Mountain Bike afterschool club May-June.

Recreation Department Staff-Diane working with groups of Seniors to determine their thoughts on future senior programming. Zach is approaching six months in position. Diane and Zach are working together on new programming.

VI. Old Business

Transportation Purchase Update- Select Board has approved the purchase of a 15 passenger Ford Transit high roof van from Grappone Ford. The van has arrived at the dealership and will be picked up in early January. Currently Seth and Zach will be able to drive the van. The van will lead to more programming opportunities.

Soccer Survey-Rebecca reviewed the results of the end of season soccer survey. Overall feedback was positive. A few mentions about teams being uneven. Most responders seemed to be kindergarten followed by $\frac{3}{4}$ girls' families. It was recommended that the results be shared with the soccer board and to have the soccer board attend a Rec Commission meeting in the future.

VII. New Business

Baseball budget- Drew Goddard working with Seth and Zach to look into expenditures. Drew reviewed capital improvements the baseball board would like to make. The approx. cost of improvements is \$14000. Movable pitching mounds \$3000 each. Update/revamp snack shack \$4-5000- making more weather tight, replace doors and some additional/new equipment. Batting cage- need new/redo cage; want two cages next to each other. This would give more flexibility at practices. Approx. 24 feet by 65/70 feet long. Same location just add second cage. Minors registration fee will increase \$10-15 similar to fee for majors. Other programs remain same cost. Drew said they continue to fundraise; offering more variety of banners this year. New bases have been purchased and new infield mix will be put down. Timing-mounds need to be ordered early winter; cage-April; snack shack-multiple parties involved in approvals. It was noted that the Park Association will need to approve some of these plans.

Alison made a Motion to approve up to \$7000 out of Recreation Revolving fund for 2 pitching mounds.

Financial Sustainability-Seth attended Financial sustainability workshop in November. He reviewed a PowerPoint with a breakdown of the year end numbers. It also looked at a summary of the service categories as well as goals. He will continue to work on the document and share at future meetings.

It was requested that we have a future discussion on SMYK and possibility of dog park and Frisbee at this location.

VIII. AT 8:50 Allison made a motion to adjourn meeting Brent seconded