

Town of Stratham



Stratham Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes November 12, 2024

- I. Kate called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
- II. Member in attendance: Kate Dardinski, Jessie Hook, Ryan Guerette, Brent Scott, Rebecca Waltz (via computer)
Absent: Allison Knab
Guests: Seth Hickey Parks and Recreation Director, Zach Cherry Parks and Rec Program Coordinator, Brandon Peck Basketball Board, Emma Wheeler Summer Camp Director
- III. Consideration of minutes from previous meetings
Brent made a motion to approve the October 8th meeting minutes as written. Kate seconded, all in favor. Kate made a motion to approve the October 15th meeting minutes as written. Brent seconded the motion, all in favor.
- IV. Treasurer's Report- Ryan updated on current expenses and revenue and provided current spreadsheets.
- V. Report of Stratham Parks and Recreation Director
Stevens Park- Seth will be meeting with the Select Board next week to review scope of work. Cracks have been filled on courts.
TMAC- meeting 11/13 about proposed dog regulation changes.
Park association- working on Ice skating rink at the 4H Barn.
Pats Peak ski program- sold out
Climbing club - sold out; 13 participants
UNH practicum students- Currently have 2 students. One working on trails at SHP, the other is focusing on reservation policies and rental rates for town facilities.
Memos-
Department is working on expanding teen programming; this need has been identified in our community. The new rock climbing program will utilize the van to transport 13 middle school students to the gym. To do this the department needs assistance staffing the program. Seth's son is currently volunteering his time with the program. Fees collected for these programs can support the cost of additional staff to support the program. Ideas for staffing these programs: having a pool of preapproved potential candidates.

Stipend for Treasurer- working on setting up treasurers' stipend it will total \$3000 for the year. To be paid out quarterly.

VI. New/Ongoing Business

- a. SAU 16 Softball field use request/discussion- Fields will be available, usage rate has not been established. Wendy recently provided Seth with contract from another field they use for reference.
- b. Summer Camp Survey discussion- Reviewed survey with Emma. Looking at new check and new check out procedures, will try and use automated program next summer. Other changes include fee structure and teen programing. Seth suggested a follow up email to families about surveys noting changes will be made, but some things are out of Parks and Rec control. Speedier and safer check in process most notable.
- c. Bike trailer purchase discussion- Seth is trying to build out program offerings for 12 plus age group. Also looking at reaching adult populations. Currently have a flatbed trailer that Seth is looking outfit with bike racks and lockable storage space. Seth is looking to spend up to \$3000 to build out trailers for Parks and Rec use.
-Kate made a motion to support the build out of the flatbed trailer up to \$3000; Jessie seconded. All in favor, motion approved.
- d. Bylaws and Sports Handbook next steps- Kate working on formatting document.
- e. Youth sports update-
Basketball-Brandon Peck updated on changes- Board is trying to create continuity. All documents available on Google drive including updated league rules. Season starting earlier than in past, about a 10-week season, 5/6 graders will play in tournament at end of season. Wolf Pack plays in local tournaments-players try out for this program also. Boys tryouts compete, girls currently taking place. Basketball board members and coaches are working on tryouts. Roster selection ultimately by basketball board. Sponsorships-currently have \$5250 in sponsorships
-Kate made a motion to approve the sponsorships in the amount of \$5250. Brent seconded. All in favor.
- f. Nov 21 baseball/softball meeting
- g. Ryan discussed proposed mapping service for SHP.
- g. 76ers sponsorship – 76ers have requested sponsorship by the Parks and Rec Department. Members currently pay \$5 per year in dues. Next year they will have opportunity to do registration through RecDesk. They transferred \$500 to the general fund. The finance department holds the remaining balance. They raise funds through food sales at elections and 50/50 raffles at monthly meetings.
-Kate made a motion to sponsor the 76ers. Ryan seconded. All in favor.

VII. At 9:06 Jessie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brent seconded motion, all in favor.