

Town of Stratham



Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes August 6, 2024

- I. At 7:02 Kate called the meeting to order
- II. Members in attendance- Kate Dardinski, Rebecca Waltz, Jessie Hook, Brent Scott
Absent: Ryan Guerette, Allison Knab
Guests: Sean Burke, Drew Goddard, Seth Hickey Parks and Rec Director
- III. Consideration of Minutes from previous meetings –
Kate made a motion to approve June 4th meeting minutes, Jessie seconded. All in favor, minutes approved.
Kate made a motion to approve June 28th meeting minutes, Brent seconded the motion. All in favor, minutes approved.
Brent made a motion to approve the July 15th meeting minutes. Rebecca seconded the motion, all in favor. Minutes approved.
- IV. Report of the Stratham Parks & Recreation Director
Ryan to act as treasurer and manage/monitor Rec Revolving fund spreadsheets with a yearly stipend
Stevens Park improvements - Seth had meeting 8/6 at park, looking at moving overflow parking area from original planned area. Planning to have a community feedback meeting in late September.
Summer programing-
Summerfest positive feedback from community
Summer Camp- currently in last week of camp. Overall successful year. New director this summer. Some changes for next year-raise age range of counselors, need older staff. Adjust CIT program-took 24 this year. Looking at middle school specific trip programing hopefully utilizing van.
Thursday Nights at the Park-Bike race has one more week, food trucks going well.
Senior programming- new mailers being designed to go to community.
Stratham Hill Park-Eco counter-avg 200 a day; had over 400 for a few Sundays this summer.
TMAC- Meets with select board 8/7 on leash regulations.
Trail work days-hoping for two days this fall

Interns-Ryan and Graham have been doing great. Graham had a successful bike program and worked on other projects. Ryan worked on Rec Revolving Fund spreadsheets and additional projects. Hoping to have new interns late January new interns.

V. New/Ongoing Business

Baseball- Sean and Drew updated on season, feel like successful season.

Schedule-everyone in agreement season should end before school ends. Newmarket makes schedules, they will discuss with them during the fall meeting.

Discussion on why we don't play with Exeter- due to Charter; to join Exeter program would have to relinquish control of our baseball. Not enough Stratham kids to only play Stratham.

Need more community involvement, Rec Commission to help with this.

Coaches meeting prior to season starting next year.

Age vs grade- they are in favor of age based teams. Allows for some flexibility, Newmarket and Epping are age based. Historically have been grade based so kids could play with friends. Kids could play up with age based, but not down. Cal Ripken is age based. Younger kids could still be grade based.

Snack shack- Cash flow helped pay for empires (\$50 per game). Friends of baseball funded initial purchases. Did not lose money on it. Drew is working on pulling exact numbers, would like to keep snack shack under Friends of Baseball.

Possibly use sign up genius for snack shack shifts.

Umps-They do not know how many they paid. It's hard getting patched umps because they don't want to do minor leagues.

Drew is currently working on financials for Friends of Stratham Baseball- about \$15000 raised from banners/sponsorships. Used for improvements and shirts. Want to ensure Friends of Stratham Baseball money stays with baseball.

Future capital improvement-want to use capital funding for dugouts.

Hope for sandlot teams.

No preseason clinics this year due to gym access issues.

Fall/Spring Soccer- Kate provided an update - soccer currently open for registration.

Stratham will be joining Hampton league for 5-8th grade. Advantages will be having separate girls and boy's programs. Registration will still be through rec desk. Greenland and Newfields also joining program. Will offer pre -season clinic and do evaluations for teams. Seth recommended using machine to line fields. Hoping to rent Exeter's this fall. Kate is putting together a practice guide for coaches

VI. At 9:07 Kate made a motion to adjourn. Brent seconded, all in favor.

Next meeting September 3rd 2024 at 7pm