

DRAFT
Town of Stratham



Stratham Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2023

At 7:05 pm, Tracy opened the meeting.

II. Members in attendance – Tracy Abbott, Kate Dardinski, Ryan Guerette, Jessie Hook, Brent Scott

Absent – Allison Knab

Guests -- Seth Hickey/Parks & Recreation Director

III. Consideration of Minutes from previous meetings

The Minutes from the February 16, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Brent motioned to accept the Minutes as written, Kate seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report

The Commission discussed the upcoming revisions to the Recreation Revolving Fund balance report.

V. Report of the Stratham Parks & Recreation Director

Stratham Hill Park - Seth reported that the Pump Track renovations will begin in April; Seth is looking into pricing for a free-standing fence which can be used for events at the Park.

Stevens Park – Seth will look into pricing for a windscreen for the tennis courts; Seth discussed a new Learn Disc Golf program he is offering.

Senior Programming – Seth will be meeting with the Director of the Newmarket Senior Center; additional Bone Builders classes have been added, as well as an additional Tai Chi class; most programs are full.

Youth Sports – Seth reported that Softball & Baseball are all set to kick off in May.

TMAC- The ordinance recommendation for the parking lot at Jack Rabbit Lane will be discussed at the April Select Board meeting; proposed trail projects for the Spring season will be discussed with the Conservation Commission and the Park Association.

Programming- The Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 4th @ 9am; new program ideas include Field Hockey and Ultimate Frisbee; The Food Truck Festival will be held on May 6th; The Food Trucks will be back at Stratham Hill Park on Thursday nights this summer; Summer camps registrations are underway; Registration is open online for this summer's Race Series.

Transportation – Seth discussed the importance of the Town being able to purchase a passenger van which would provide transportation for the Senior Program events, Family events, as well as open up opportunities to offer new programs to other age groups. The Town just passed a warrant article to add an additional \$5 to each vehicle registered in Town, Seth mentioned that this could perhaps help fund the passenger van. The Select Board has the final approval authority.

VI. Old Business

Seth reported that we received an AARP Grant which will be used to increase communications with the seniors population; ideas are being researched and discussed.

Department Staffing- Seth discussed the staffing needs of the Recreation Department and has requested that a part-time position be added to help support Senior Programming, which is in full swing. Seth stated that if the Recreation Commission and Select Board support adding a part-time position, that it would go into his Department's budget for next year. Tracy asked if the Recreation Revolving Fund could fund this position temporarily through the end of 2023 and Seth confirmed that it could. Seth will discuss with the Select Board and gather their feedback.

VII. New Business

Brent motioned to:

Move Jessie from an Alternate position to a Regular board member position; Jessie's term will end in 2026.

Re-elect Ryan to the Commission; Ryan's term will end in 2024.

Nominate Kate & Brent as Co-Chairs, Jessie as Secretary, and Ryan as Treasurer

Ryan seconded the motion, all in favor, motion approved.

VIII. Adjournment

At 8:16pm, Kate motioned to adjourn the meeting, Brent seconded the motion, all in favor, motion approved.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 @ 7:00pm at the Stratham Municipal Center.