

Town of Stratham



Stratham Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes May 16, 2023

- I. Kate opened the meeting at 7:08 pm
- II. Members in attendance- Kate Dardinski, Ryan Guerette, Jessie Hook, Brent Scott, Rebecca waltz
Absent-Allison Knab; Guests-Seth Hickey/Parks and Rec Director, Beckett Hickey

- III. Consideration of minutes from previous meetings.

The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. Brent motioned to accept the minutes as written, Ryan seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.

- IV. Treasurer's Report

Ryan is unable to access the shared folder. Plan to sit down with Christiane, Seth and Ryan to review. Recent transactions include the third payment for pump track. Windscreen for Stevens park; barricades, came damaged and have not been paid.

- V. Report of the Stratham Parks & Recreation Director

Senior Programing-King Arthur Flour Trip was cancelled due to low enrollment. Most programs are full. Classes include Bone builders, painting, Tai Chi Class, hiking and coffee socials.

Youth Sports-Baseball 163 enrolled, having some difficulty finding referees. Softball 36 enrolled. Spring soccer about 59 enrolled. Field hockey clinics have been well received.

TMAC-Parking lot at Jack Rabbit Lane Ordinance now in effect, going well so far. Initial push back from outside community members has now quieted. Additional Eco Counter has been ordered and will be installed by end of May near scale house at the park. Seth mentioned someone put rocks in current Eco Counter, but the company is able to take current data and look at trends to estimate numbers while counter was not working. Seth will now receive alerts when nothing is recorded after two days.

Park Association-Cookout at SHP May 30th at 5:30.

Stratham Hill Park-Request has been sent to Public Works for removal of Story Walk. On May 2ns volunteers from Liberty assembled barricades, painted snack shack and did a leaf clean up. The Timberland earth day clean-up was canceled. Some renovations were done to the baseball snack shack.

SVK Pump Track Renovations-Work began on May 1st, the anticipated completion date is June 1st.

Stevens Park- Windscreens for all four sides of the courts have been installed by Public Works. A small kiosk was purchased for court sign ups. Some people have expressed frustration on availability of courts. At times pickleball occupying multiple tennis courts instead of multiple pickleball games happening on 1 court. The new pickleball nets have been ordered but are on backorder. Working with engineering firm to review scope of work. Test Pits need to be conducted by Public Works.

Programing-Food Truck Festival had 2200 participants. Revenues will exceed 2022. Some comments from food truck vendors included wanting longer serving hours, too many food trucks, and some were not happy with the location of their food truck. Food Trucks on Thursday Nights at SHP has extended season from June 1st to Oct 12th. Three food trucks and 2 desserts trucks will be present. Looking for additional musicians. Summer Camp and Events- Wilderness camps (2 weeks) have been cancelled due to staff turnover. Mountain bike camp-finding people are not registering for multiple weeks as they have in past years. Art camp is new offering. SMS camp-5 weeks. Race Series-Strong attendance. Using new app for timing that has worked well so far.

Recreation Department Staff- Interviews have started for Program Coordinator position. Have a great potential applicant. The part time position has been posted, awaiting applicants. Need to follow up with Christiane on draft formula for reimbursement for the part time Program Coordinator position.

VI. Communications and Miscellaneous

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

Danielle Harmon Award-Selection will take place tonight and Seth will take care of ordering plaque and will present.

Summer Hires-Ryan made a motion to approve expenses up to \$100,000. Brent seconded motion. All in favor, motion approved.

Skatepark Discussion- Beckett Hickey came to speak about the need for a skatepark in town. This week to town meeting 4 years ago and lost by only a few votes. Beckett is looking to spread word about a skatepark and shared how it would be beneficial to have a place that kids can bike to or get to from the school bus.

IX. Adjournment-at 9:05 Kate motioned to adjourn the meeting, Brent seconded the motion, all in favor, motion approved.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13th 2023 at 7pm.

