

## **Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**November 9, 2021**

**Members Present:** Erin Bradbury, Robyn Floyd, Rob Owens, Robin Grady

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Nichole Hallett, Recreation Director  
Amelia Hirtle, Recording Secretary  
Dan Correia, Potential Committee Member

Erin Bradbury called the Recreation Committee meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

### **Minutes:**

**A motion was made by Erin Bradbury and seconded by Rob Owens to accept the minutes of the October 26, 2021 meeting.**

The minutes of October 26, 2021 were approved as written.

### **Director's Report:**

### **Programs:**

**Babysitting Class-** We are running two babysitter courses both half day programs January 26<sup>th</sup> & March 16<sup>th</sup> (schools have a half day). Join us for a BLAST! (Babysitter Lessons and Safety Training) Babysitting workshop and get CPR/AED certified, too! We will cover how to react responsibly to medical emergencies, perform first aid for common childhood injuries, how to best call 911 and how to prevent and relieve choking. You'll be prepared to interview for a babysitting job, select safe activities for children of different ages and run your own babysitting business. You'll leave with a certificate of completion for babysitting, a First Aid book, and upon successful completion, you will also be certified in CPR/AED. Grades 5-9.

**Outdoor Classes-** Nichole reached out to Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary to set up some outdoor programs like snowshoeing etc. At this time, she is waiting to hear back. The idea would be to partner up with them for them to run the program and we would help them market the program. Program costs can be expensive and the interest for running a program can be unpredictable. Program costs would include: equipment, time spent to organizing logistics, time spent creating marketing materials, sending eblasts, social media campaigning, finding an

instructor, etc. This is their website: <https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/wachusett-meadow/programs-classes-activities/schools-groups>

## **Miscellaneous:**

**Recreation Committee Vacancy-** We have a vacancy in the recreation committee. Our department has interviewed a few candidates. An offer to join the committee has been extended to Dan Correia. Dan has been a resident of Holden since 2004. He started the Davis Hill Dragon Dash fundraiser, and the Fore! The Kids Golf Tournament fundraiser. Both of his children attended the Holden Recreation programs during their younger years as well as participated in Holden Town youth sports. He will be attending the meeting tonight, and possibility accepting the position on the committee.

**Pool Pass System-** After speaking with the committee last time, we are not going to continue to pursue a new pool pass program this summer. We are going to evaluate and improve our current registration process with MyRec and hopefully add wifi access to staff at the pool which may improve operation processes. This also may allow us to get rid of the pool passes all together.

**Capital Budget Plan-** Nichole submitted a tentative 5 year capital budget plan.

- DPW will be adding a new line item to our budget including the cost of field maintenance items; a timeline will be set up to provide extra care for each field (one a season); for a field to receive “extra care” it must be taken offline (no one can use it); the price increase will be effective for She is currently reviewing the court maintenance plan from previous years to determine plans for future court maintenance.
- As mentioned in previous meeting the pool life expectancy is coming to reach the end. We have reached out to Weston and Sampson for quotes on a pool consultant to evaluate pool integrity in/out; including slide. The currently provide services to caulk pool area. They will also be looking at the Dawson Recreation Playground. The playground was constructed around 1996 and needs to be replaced. This playground gets an enormous amount of use. It is a complimentary space next to the pool, which is the “main” recreation facility for the summer too. The area is also used by half day Recreation campers.
- The Recreation car may need to be replaced in the next fiscal year. All 2006 cars have been “retired”. The car had a few issues and was recently brought to mechanics. It needed body work to cover up the body rot to pass its vehicle inspection. The mechanic did not know how much longer the car would be drivable for.

**Christmas Tree Lighting-** Santa is scheduled to arrive on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00. We have purchased all items needed for event. Girl Scouts will help stuff goody bag items, and sing for Santa’s arrival. There will be some new items for this year including the Wachusett High School Band that will be playing while children are lined up to see Santa, Brilla will set up a tent to offer hot drinks for sale and other items, a path will be created to help children stay organized to visit Santa, and we are decorating the mail box next to Town Hall to

create a “Letters to Santa” box. Ray Sherborn will be Santa this year. Nichole said she hopes to see the committee members and their families at the tree lightening even on December 4<sup>th</sup> and the department extends their warm wishes to everyone for the holidays.

Motion was made by Erin Bradbury, and seconded by Robin Floyd to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

**The next Recreation Committee meeting will be held on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.**