

Recreation Committee

June 9, 2020

4:00PM, Virtual Meeting

Members in attendance: MaryLou Volpe (MV), Erin Carson (EC), Kadion Phillips (KP), Cindy Forgit (CF), Annie Roscioli (AR)

Members Absent:

Others in Attendance: Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator

OPENING OF MEETING: MV made motion to open meeting at 4:03 PM. Seconded by KP.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES 5-20-20 CF made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by EC. Vote 4-0.

Public Notice: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting law, G.L. c. 30A Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Sturbridge Recreation Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation can be found on the Town's website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/town-administrator/pages/how-access-virtual-meeting>. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen and or watch the meeting either online via the Town's on demand video broadcast, on cable television on channel 191, or dial into the meeting at 774-304-1455, enter 1428# for the meeting number and 12345 for the access code. (This phone number is only active for the public during public meetings). No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Re-Opening MA: Discussion on Courts, Youth Sports, Programming, Summer Recreation Program.

AR stated that with updated State Guidelines for Phase 2, we have amenities that may now open. This includes the basketball court, playground, youth sport leagues for practices only, and also includes beaches. AR stated that the Committee will need to make a decision on Summer Recreation Programming and Concerts on the Common series. AR stated that there are many concerns with the Camp and Recreation Programming guidelines, with the largest of concerns being the daily screenings, a private bathroom and private sick room, as well as the new requirement for an indoor emergency shelter with a minimum of 30 sq feet per child. This is not feasible for outdoor programs and seems to be a large concern with other towns. AR continued to review concerns, sharing that we do not have an isolation space, no control where employees may travel on nights and weekends, as well as children and families who may be traveling and putting the staff at risk. Lastly, swimming is not permitted as no activities that may require rescue are allowed at this time, and the playground must be locked to the public and used for the Summer Program exclusively, or not used at all. AR stated she spoke with Mr. Lucas at Tantasqua High School and they are expecting to cancel their summer camps, as they are unable to adhere to the guidelines. MV shared her concern for the risk and inability to adhere to every one of these State guidelines. EC shared that she agrees that opening the Summer Rec Program does not seem possible. AR stated that she is working on a schedule to place Guards and a Beach Supervisor at the Rec Area despite the outcome of the Recreation Program. **MV made a motion to forgo the Summer Recreation Program, but to open the beach with Guards and Supervisor as proposed by Recreation Director, seconded by EC. Vote 4-0.**

- a. AR reviewed the update guidelines for basketball courts, playground and youth sports, which now allows practices of groups of 10. No changes to property reservation at that may be expected for phase 3. **KP made a motion to accept the guidelines as written and open the Fields, Playground, and Basketball court. Seconded by MV. Vote 4-0.**
- b. AR reviewed Concerts on the Common and what is expected for future phases and July/August concerts. AR stated she does not want to cancel too early, but questioned the best way to be fair to all of the bands. AR shared her concerns on scheduled band sizes, as we have some larger brass bands booked for this summer. MV asked if we, as a Town, have to abide by the State guidelines. AR directed the question to JB who confirmed that we have an obligation to do the best we can. EC asked what the specific regulation on concerts are at this time and if it is only the event space we are worried about, AR confirmed that the State guidelines state that No outdoor performances of any type are permitted during Phase 1 or 2. For outdoor activities that may allowed, the guidelines are

very specific are still require group sizes under 10 including the instructor. The guidelines do say outdoor performances will be permitted in Phase 3, but there is no information on the regulations to come. EC shared that she would like to remain hopeful that we may be able to have future concerts. KP asked if it's possible to speak with the bands and adjust the contract to allow for a last minute notice of cancellation or allowance, depending on information that comes out. MV agreed and asked to meet the week of June 22nd in hopes that Phase 3 guidelines will be released.

2. **JB informed the Recreation Committee that the CPC liaison's term is ending and will need to be reappointed. MV made a motion to reappoint Kadion Phillips as the CPC liaison/representative, seconded by CF. Vote 4-0.**

- a. AR shared that the additional funding requested through CPC for the Little League Lighting Project has been approved after lengthy discussion and our next steps are the Annual Town Meeting, Monday June 29.

PROPERTY USAGE REQUESTS

ADJOURNMENT: EC made motion to adjourn meeting at 4:45 PM. Seconded by MV. Vote 4-0.

Tentative Next Meeting: To Be Determined pending COVID-19 situation

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Roscioli
Recreation Director