

Recreation Committee
September 9, 2020
4:30PM, Virtual Meeting

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

Members Absent:

Others in Attendance: Jeff Bridges Town Administrator, Robyn Chrabasz Facilities Coordinator

OPENING OF MEETING: 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 on the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

AR called the meeting to open at 4:32 PM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES 6-9-20, 6-24-20, 7-7-20, 7-28-20.

EC made a motion to accept the four months of meeting minutes as presented, 6/9, 6/24, 7/7 and 7/28.

Seconded by MV. Vote 4-0, 1 Abstained.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Little League Lighting Project.** AR informed the Committee that we did not receive any bids and we have now extended the deadline by one week. JB shared that one bid was actually received at 9:58 AM after the extension was already determined and posted. RFP's now due Wednesday Sept 16.
2. **Cancellation of Indoor Adult Sport League.** AR informed the Committee that THS is not accepting any usage requests at this time due to State Guidance. The indoor sport leagues will be canceled/postponed until the spring. AR stated the HS continues to be supportive of the league and confirmed we will not "lose" our expected weekly nights. At this time, basketball is still a high risk sport and play/games are not yet permitted. Volleyball is a moderate risk sport and games are only permitted when modified to accommodate new State guidelines.
3. **Annual Tree Lighting-** discussions on virtual. AR informed the Committee she has spoken with Santa, who is willing to assist in broadcasting a virtual event. Expected to be broadcasted through Facebook Live and the Town Access Channel. AR shared that she has begun reaching out to smaller singing groups to see who may be interested in performing. AR shared her concerns for crowd audience size if the event were to be in person, in addition to regulations on what vendors may sell such as retail and craft products. MV stated she would like to see the event held virtual with Santa, CF agreed. CF asked if we would still host the coloring contest and if prizes would be included. CF emphasized continuing the normalcy as possible. EC asked if there are any concerns with broadcasting and how that will work. AR clarified that these events are typically broadcasted through TV access which does not typically have issues. AR expects to use her personal phone to connect to Facebook Live. KP asked if a road will need to be closed to restrict community access. AR stated she will request to keep the existing police detail but the virtual aspect will be well communicated. **MV made a motion to move the Annual Tree Lighting Event to a virtual event. Seconded by JS. Vote 4-0.**
4. **Light Up Sturbridge. New holiday event.** AR introduced a new event expected to be held annually moving forward if the Committee is in support. This event is a community decorating contest to be held the first two weekends in December. Sturbridge residents and businesses will compete by decorating their residences, the department will provide a map of all registered addresses to create a beautiful Holiday night drive. AR shared the idea for this year is community spirit, so prizes will be bragging rights and an engraved trophy provided by the Recreation Department. In future years, gift cards and additional prizes will be added. AR listed several of the rules, including all displays must be visible from the road, displays must consist of any holiday, religious or winter theme, any address entered must be located in Sturbridge. Full list of rules can be found on the town website. MV shared that she thinks this event is a great idea and especially likes the

category divisions. JS shared that he also liked the idea and it is a great way to bring people to Town and to restaurants. JS asked what the determining factors between large and small businesses in Town will be. AR agreed that is what the Committee needs to determine and agree on tonight. EC suggested that as the first year of a new event, where we are not sure of participation, we could wait and create categories after seeing who has registered. EC then suggested having one general business section and not dividing the category more, businesses were hit hard this year and she would like to encourage anyone to just participate. MV agreed. **MV made a motion to develop Light Up Sturbridge under the guidelines outlined, with one business category and two residential categories. Seconded by CF. Vote 5-0.**

5. **60 Cedar St Discussions.** AR shared that tonight we had Robyn from Facilities and welcomed her to the discussion. RC shared that we met with the engineers earlier this week and they are midway with the design and layout for 60 Cedar St. Prior to writing the technical specifications there are questions on the synthetic turf at this location. The engineer has pointed out that there are three main turf manufactures for sports fields and this is a very competitive market. However, the three turf products are very different from one another. The engineers would like us to review products and make a proprietary specification based on a recommendation. JB shared that the infill product will also be discussed, not just the turf product, there will be multiple parts to evaluate here. RC asked the Committee if they would like to view the turf presentations as a group, form a subcommittee or delegate a spokesperson. The Committee discussed and all expressed interest in the turf discussions. RC also shared that along the same line as technical specifications, the hired engineers McClure are seeking permission to talk with Musco Lighting and to bring them into the design phase of the contract as a rep for lighting at this field. RC wanted to bring this to the Committee as a whole because while we have the ability to bid proprietary, we do have history with Musco and existing issues with Musco. RC stated that ultimately the difference between Musco and other companies is Musco is typically tested as a fully assembly, compared to the pieces of the system are tested individually. RC's question to the Committee is if they are comfortable with using Musco during the design phase through the engineer, and to specify the sports lighting, which when going to bid would be proprietary to Musco. MV shared that if the engineers are comfortable with Musco, she agrees with their knowledge. EC shared that her opinion falls on not having the technical knowledge to pick either or, and would defer to Town Staff or engineers on this matter. AR shared that the engineers have shared concern about not using Musco as the market is very limited, and they have vocalized their preference to use Musco Lighting. RC said she is happy to speak with McClure directly and express all concerns, but agrees that Musco does have the speciality here. MV stated she would be happy with that. AR said she would also be most comfortable following the engineers recommendation.

CF left at 5:10 PM

PROPERTY USAGE REQUESTS.

Joshua Hyde Library, Town Common. Tuesday 9/15 and Friday 9/18, 10-12:00 PM, Story Time. **Virtually approved by Chair MV.**

Property Usage Reservations remain closed at this time to all external organizations.

ADJOURNMENT: EC made motion to adjourn meeting at 5:33 PM. Seconded by MV. Vote 5-0.

Tentative Next Meeting: Wednesday September 16 at 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Roscioli

Recreation Director