

Recreation Committee
February 16, 2022
4:00PM, Town Hall

Members in Attendance: MaryLou Volpe (MV), Juliana Kuszewski (JK), Kadion Phillips (KP), Annie Roscioli (AR)

Members Absent: Jeff Shapiro, Cindy Forgit

Others in Attendance: Leigh Darren

OPENING OF MEETING: MV made a motion to open meeting at 4:31 PM, Seconded by KP. 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Overview of 2022 Sturbridge Winter Outing.** AR shared that it was a chilly but great evening out with the Fire Department and Southbridge Credit Union. Attendees were able to enjoy hot chocolate, smores, and lighted night skating. All parties hope to continue this event in the future.
2. **Update on Betterment Discussions.** AR stated that all Betterment Requests have been approved by the Betterment Committee and are now pending approval at the Town Meeting.

3. **2022 Concert Series**

2022 Concerts on the Common Schedule

- June 9- Throwback to the 60s
- June 16- Yankee Notions (New England Folk) Sponsored by Cultural Council
- June 23- Wonderland Mafia (Top 40 Covers), Sponsored by Cultural Council
- June 30- Uncle Sam's Patriotic Jazz Band
- July 7- Holdin Back Band (Rock, oldies) Sponsored by Cultural Council
- July 14- New England Digital Accordion Orchestra
- July 21- Stomp N Holler (Current & Classic Country)
- July 28th- Abletones, Sponsored by Lions/Rotary Clubs
- August 4- Donnelly Road (Rock n Roll)
- Aug 11- Music Matters Band (Top Hits)
- Aug 18- Island Castaways (Trop Rock) Sponsored by Savers Bank

4. **Spring Free Fun Series, Public CPR Class.**

AR shared the following Free Fun Friday Schedule;

- April 2- Guided Trail Walk with FroST, Leadmine Trails, featuring Raven Rookery Trail (Moderate Hike, 1.5 hours), 9:00 AM
- April 9- Guided Trail Walk with FroST, Leadmine Trails, featuring the Saw Mill Trail with a focus on the Johnson Saw Mill (Moderate Hike, 1.5 hours), 9:00 AM
- April 16- Intro to Pickleball with Sturbridge Pickleball, Cedar Rec Courts, 9:00 AM
- April 23- Total Barre Fitness with Fitzgerald Dance, Town Common, 9:00 AM
- May 7- Julie Gerrish, HIIT, Town Common, 9:00 AM
- May 14- Yoga on the Common with Emily Louise Yoga, 9:00 AM

The Public CPR class is scheduled for Saturday April 23, 2022. Cost is \$35 per person.

5. **Outdoor Basketball League 2022, Youth, Potential Adult.** AR shared that the Youth Outdoor League will be running once again thanks to the help of Drew Darger. This is for ages 14-21, playing from 7:00-9:00PM on Thursday evenings, June 2- July 14, Ages 14-21. AR is also exploring hosting a 21+ outdoor league to play on Wednesday evenings.

6. **Open Seat on Recreation Committee.** At this time, three residents have pulled papers.
7. **Sport Leagues Funding Requests due by 3/4/22.** AR stated that field and funding requests have been released, awaiting for all youth leagues to return paperwork at this time. Fields to be released for usage early April, pending weather.
8. **Spring Bonfire.** AR shared that she is working with our fall vendors, including the band Sunshine & Blue Skies to return to the Common on Saturday April 30, 2022 from 5:00-9:00PM. Detail requests have been submitted, event to feature Food Trucks, Live Music, Greater Good Brewing, Bonfire, Crafts Table, Face Painting.
9. **Summer Recreation Program.** All staff returning but two, positions will be advertised as required (newspaper and Town website).
10. **Review of Soil Testing Proposals.** AR provided a summary of the soil testing proposals, a result of the ongoing discussions with Tom Irwin Advisors throughout the past year. The soil testing proposals are comprised of 8 steps to determine the existing conditions. Results of the soil testing will provide a personalized Soil Investigations Report including details of findings and solutions necessary to enhance the performance of soils. MV stated that everyone who has voted against prior plans has asked to repair the existing fields that we have, and this is the first step. KP reiterated the need for turf fields at all town field locations, as it is the only long-term solution. **MV made a motion to move forward with the soil testing proposals, seconded by KP. Vote 3-0.**
11. **End of School Celebration with the Police Dept.** AR has scheduled a meeting with the School Resource Officers to discuss an End of Year Celebration on the Town Common. Concept; Last day of school, half day. Divide the time into two categories, 12 & under from 3:30-5:30, then 13+ from 5:30-7:30. "Field Day Style" Featuring DJ, Bounce House, Games, Photo Booth. For 5:30-7:30, also featuring Foam Pit Dance Party for Clubin' on the Common Back half of Common, Dodgeball Tournament (pre-registration). Series of eliminations, final winner plays Police Department Team. **KP made a motion to begin planning for End of School Year Celebration, seconded by MV. Vote 3-0.**

OLD BUSINESS

PROPERTY USAGE REQUESTS

Turners Field, Lion's Club, Annual River Race. Sunday April 24, 2022.

MV made a motion to accept, seconded by JK. Vote 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT: MV made motion to adjourn meeting at 5:16 PM. Seconded by KP. Vote 3-0.

Tentative Next Meeting: March 23, 2022 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Roscioli
Recreation Director