

Recreation Committee

August 8, 2022

4:00PM, Town Hall

Members in Attendance: MaryLou Volpe (MV), Juliana Kuszewski (JK), Josh Cottone (JC), Jeff Shapiro (JS), Annie Roscioli (AR)

Members Absent: Kadion Phillips

Others in Attendance:

OPENING OF MEETING MV made a motion to open meeting at 4:00 PM

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES 4-27-2022 MV made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by JK. JS abstained. 3-0-1.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Partnership with Cedar Lake Association, Cornhole Tournament.** The Tournament was hosted on the Town Common for its second year, the first year location was the Host. Overall, great feedback and the community members were very thankful for the space.
- 2. Flowerbed Project at Rec, Girl Scout Silver Award.** AR has been working with Girl Scout Alana on her Silver Award Project, developing a focal point at Cedar Rec Area. Alana has designed a new bench featuring a flower planter on the back. This girl scout has worked with her team to create a design including materials list to be purchased through Town Rec Account at Howe Lumber.
- 3. Fall events; Town Wide Yard Sale, Sturbridge Spooky Nights, Fall Bonfire.** AR shared that the fall events are fast approaching. The Yard Sale will be the weekend of September 17th and 18th, while Spooky Nights and the Fall Bonfire take place in October. This will be the first year for Sturbridge Spooky Nights, a Halloween Decorating Contest. This contest was developed after the community requested and showed interest. The Fall Bonfire will be October 22, 2022 featuring live music, vendors, and the bonfire!
- 4. Fall Adult Indoor Leagues, High School not available for usage.** AR shared that she is actively working on an alternative location to host the Adult Indoor Rec Leagues. Tantasqua High School provided notice in August that they are unable to host this year due to scheduled maintenance in the Field House. They invited the leagues to return March 2023, AR requested January 2023 and is waiting to hear back. AR is exploring the Southbridge YMCA and High Schools for possible usage.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Summer Programs

- a. **Summer Rec Program.** AR shared that it is a truly wonderful and record breaking summer at the Recreation Program. With 176 registered attendees, AR stated she was incredibly proud of her staff and the success of the program once again. The Summer Rec Coordinator will prepare an end of summer report in September.
- b. **Kids Block Party with Sturbridge Police and Fire Departments.** This was the first annual Block Party and all around a great success! The event saw high attendance numbers and featured Bounce House, Foam Pit, Dodgeball Tournament, DJ, Food Truck, and Face Paint! AR extends gratitude to PD and FD for their continued support in developing and executing this event.
- c. **Summer Concert Series.** AR was happy to share that food trucks have been scheduled for the second half of the concert series, with many thanks to the Sturbridge Food Truck Festival for bringing more local vendors to the area! The Concert Series had two rain cancellations and

several more weeks scheduled. Canceled Concerts are rescheduled for upcoming Farmers Markets.

- d. **Outdoor Basketball Leagues.** This year featured two outdoor leagues and great participation. Wednesday nights hosted ages 21+ and Thursday nights had the 14-21 age group. Many thanks to Drew Darger for continuing to volunteer his time to these leagues!
2. **Soil Testing Project.** AR shared that she has been meeting with new DPW Director Heather Blakeley. Heather has assisted in developing the scope of the investigation and confirmed with Town Administrator that this project is considered a professional service, meaning quotes will be requested. AR hopes to approach the ARPA Committee with the results of this investigation for funding purposes. The alternative funding route would be a Town Meeting.
3. **60 Cedar St Project.** AR shared she has met with Town Administrator and Facilities to determine best steps to terminate the existing contract. Due to the language of the existing contract, there is no way to explore accessibility upgrades as the allocated money is dedicated for the turf field project. Recreation was advised to terminate the contract before attempting to view accessibility upgrades to existing amenities. Recreation will be scheduling a meeting with Facilities and McClure to review contract and remaining items such as completion of the parking lot design. **MV made a motion for Recreation to work with Facilities and Town Officials to properly terminate the existing contract, seconded by JK. Vote 4-0.**

PROPERTY USAGE REQUESTS

1. Town Common, CLA Cornhole Tournament, Saturday July 30, 2022.
2. Town Common, Hayloft Steppers, Saturday September 24, 2022.
3. Town Common, Papaya Pilates and Make-A-Wish MA/RI Chapter, Saturday Aug 6

MV made a motion to accept August usage requests, seconded by JK. Vote 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT: MV made motion to adjourn meeting at 5:05 PM. Seconded by JC. Vote 4-0.

Tentative Next Meeting: September 21, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Roscioli
Recreation Director