

Recreation Committee

October 19, 2022

4:00PM, Town Hall

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

Members Absent: Josh Cottone (JC),

Others in Attendance:

OPENING OF MEETING MV made a motion to open meeting at 4:00 PM, seconded by JS. Vote 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES 9-28-22 MV made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by JK. KP abstained. Vote 3-0-1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Begin discussions of Betterment requests for FY24.** Recreation Director shared that Betterment requests will be due in early December and there are no changes to annual requests. AR has been working with Little League on a potential requests to update their building to compliance as has requested a quote prior the meeting. AR confirmed each league may submit their funding requests to the Rec Dept by 11/18. AR is exploring new requests including a Foosball Table for Summer Program, upgrading the electrical on the Town Common and the Outfield at Turners. The Committee discussed that Budget and Betterment requests will follow closely to FY23 with expected price increases noted. Chair MV reiterated that the need for both additional personal for the Department and a salary adjustment to reflect the prior compensation study must be included in this budget cycle. The Committee agreed and JS confirmed that now is the time to request as we have been speaking on this for many months. AR shared that dates for submissions and finance committee meetings have not been set yet. Chair MV stated she would like to be included in these meetings. There was no further discussion on Budget/Betterment process.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Update on Fall Events; Town Bonfire 10/22/22, Spooky Nights begins 10/28/22.** AR and Committee reviewed details for the Bonfire; JK is scheduled to run the Kids Crafts Table. The event will feature Sunshine and Blue Skies Band, Dog Father Food Truck, Roadside Delights, West Wind Farm, Sturbridge Coffee Roasters, Melissa Flaherty Cakes, Lulus Accessories, Thrifty Gypsy, Sturbridge Coop School, and Maggie the Clown! The Recreation Committee extends their gratitude to the Boy Scouts, Fire Department and Police Department for ensuring the success of these annual events. AR confirmed a map and list of addresses will be released on October 27 for the Spooky Nights competition, with 32 registered addresses!
2. **Winter Events; Tree Lighting Ceremony, Light Up Sturbridge, NYC Bus Trip.** The Committee reviewed Tree Lighting and LUS details with Recreation Director. The NYC Busses (2) are officially sold out.
3. **Soil Testing Project.** AR confirmed this project will be requesting funding through ARPA, as previously discussed, but a date has not been set at this time. Once the funding is approved, three quotes will be needed before the testing may begin. The Town has agreed not to seek additional quotes until funding is confirmed. Recreation is ready to move on this project once funding is awarded.
4. **Indoor Adult Leagues, facility remains closed.** Spring session, February-May, tentatively scheduled. AR shared we may offer the leagues for a spring season and was not successful in obtaining time in the

junior high school. AR had also explored using Southbridge gyms but this did not move forward due to lack of availability. KP suggested contacting the Southbridge Armory for indoor usage.

PROPERTY USAGE REQUESTS

ADJOURNMENT: MV made motion to adjourn meeting at 4:52 PM. Seconded by KP. Vote 4-0.

Tentative Next Meeting: November 23, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Roscioli
Recreation Director