

Recreation Commission Minutes
3/9/22

In attendance: Recreation Department Meeting: Jenna Tucker Eugair, Ben Nappi, Rod Moore, Ryan Bushey, John Lindsay(via Zoom), Emily Reinhardt

Additions for joint meeting: Dan Gaherty, Laurie DiCesare, Kris Dulmer (via Zoom)

1. **Call to Order 5:10 PM** – John
2. **Amendments to Agenda** – none
3. **Public Forum** – none
4. **Approval of Previous Minutes** - Motion Rod, Second Emily
5. **Recreation Department Report 5:11pm**

- **FY23 Budget & CIP Approval** – approved in full on town meeting day; not only proposed budget but also several CIP projects – Trails and Pathways (not on budget), HVAC for field house, playground mulch, water fountain to dog park in conjunction with public works facility, Little League improvements, tennis court resurfacing; maintenance budget line approved as well

- **FY22 Park Projects and CIP**

- **Ice rink** – already started to get picked up, more difficult setting up this year because materials can't be reused
- **Fruit Tree Grove** – ordered more trees and gooseberry bushes
- **Other FY22 Projects** – community garden project and water to garden, possibly hiring someone for soil and building raised beds - should market for volunteers to make a garden board; Little League improvements such as repainting and replacing distance markers, also meeting with Little League about adding scoreboard; rebuilding portable toilets enclosure on East side of Bombardier Park this spring; tennis court benches and squeeges, one donation that covers one bench; disc golf bridges; painting horseshoe pit building; finish removing tree near pavilion

- **Events:**

- **Winter Wrap-Up: Great Milton Bake Off, Winter Festival (Feb 11-13)** – Bake Off not happening, nobody registered; Winter Festival had a lot of events in the community, successful for the most part except for sledding, possibly due to weather and Super Bowl; virtual disc golf tournament “snow throw” was good, commemorative discs still have not come in
- John - Could we contact schools for cardboard sled competition? Bake off in cooking classes?
- **Upcoming: Park Spruce Up Day (April 9), Egg Hunt (April 16), Green Up Day (May 7), Music in the Park, Fourth of July** – Park Spruce Up Day will be after Egg Hunt if weather is bad – people will sign up for zones; Egg Hunt will go to pre-COVID approach of eggs in

a field; Music in the Park is starting Tuesday around June 14th, planning 10 performances; 4th of July similar to last year, locked in fireworks and possibly on-the-go mini golf

- **Looking ahead: summer programs, summer camps, summer grant opportunities** – camps done different this year because of experience of last year, not doing a day camp but doubling up on specialty camps with fully formed curricula and highly trained instructors. However, day camp is an affordable solution for parents, will reevaluate after this summer to see how it goes

Summer Matters grant coming back and approved to apply, application due next week and answer will come April 21st; application for this summer and next summer through July will bring camp costs down and add transportation back in

Smaller grants – will be applying for Arbor Day grant and Cliff Grant

Working on summer program guide, aiming for mid to late April; would like to have some printed

6. Recreation Commission Report 5:55 PM

- **Joint meeting with Conservation Commission** – first joint meeting for many of us

- **Volunteer opportunities** – Park Spruce Up day; Egg Hunt – bunny costume, helper, logistics; Green Up Day; 4th of July – mini golf attendant for 3 hours

- **Recruitment** - get the word out for this board or any board on the town

Motion to adjourn recreation portion of agenda – motion Rod, second Emily 6:01pm

7. Joint Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission Meeting 6:05 PM

Round of introductions

- **Brief overview of how we've partnered up since last joint meeting** – Jenna has been attending most of the conservation commission meetings; taken more role with Green Up Day; Lamoille River Walk – about 100 acres develop management plan via a study of property for recreational opportunities

- **Parks, trails, and natural areas updates since last joint meeting** – Milton Town Forest improved surface (ADA compliant) trail to first stream crossing was phase 1, two more phases planned to continue the trail to the first wetland and build a viewing platform at wetland area; recently found we were not funded but RTP grant opportunities have opened again and letter of interest is accepted

Another opportunity for Town Forest has been a management plan created, hopefully accepted by Select Board. Some thinning of timber and some invasive management as well as overpopulation of deer

April 2nd (?) meeting for Lake Arrowhead at 2pm

Updating Lamoille River walk with steps, bridges, and trails

Public works facility plan will affect use of the trails and some plants, but will be a small impact compared to other options for a variety of reasons

- **Goals for future partnerships, events, and projects**

- o **Bombardier Park East/West wetlands** – cleaning out area between the two parks, possibly dredging, pulling logs out of pond which is turning into more of a swamp; would be nice to have a crushed rock walking path about two yards from water so that the vegetation could grow; interested parties to do this work could either create a separate meeting or possibly make this part of Park Spruce Up Day.

- o **Green Up Day** – coffee and donuts, passing out bags; anything else email will be sent

- o **Fruit Tree Grove/Garden/Pollinator Habitat** – more peach trees, cherry trees, hybrid gooseberry currant bushes ordered to be placed in vacant spots. Will need volunteers; will need volunteers for garden before we commit to garden; pollinator habitat for next year with wildflowers

- o **Lamoille River Walk** – nothing to add based on prior conversation, other than we need volunteers for upkeep

Work together as commissions to recruit members, volunteers

8. Adjournment of Joint Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission Meeting - Adjourn at 7:25pm, motion Laurie, Second Rod

9. Next Meeting · Wed, April 13, 2022 at 5pm.

Rodney W. Mann TH