

**ADOPTED
Minutes
Waterbury Recreation Committee Meeting 9 -11-2019
Second Floor- Waterbury Library**

Meeting Begins 6:30

Roll Call:

Committee Members: Frank Spaulding, Paul Lawson, Diane Gildea, Barb Blauvet, Bill Minter Phoebe Pelkey

Present: Phoebe Pelkey, Frank Spaulding, Barb Blauvet, Bill Minter

Absent: Paul Lawson, Diane Gildea

Town Employees – Officers: Nick Nadeau, Recreation Director

Present: Nick Nadeau

Guests:

1. Note taker: Phoebe Pelkey Timekeeper: Phoebe Pelkey

2. Review Agenda

3. Adopt Meeting Agenda:

A. Motion to adopt: Bill Minter

B. Second: Barb Blauvet

C. Discussion: None

D. Vote: Passed

4. Adopt Meeting Minutes of 6/12/2019:

Meeting minutes are on Town of Waterbury website.

https://www.waterburyvt.com/fileadmin/files/Recreation_files/2019_Minutes/Minutes_20190612.pdf

A. Motion to adopt: Phoebe Pelkey

B. Second: Bill Minter

C. Discussion: None

D. Vote: Passed

5. Discussion of the Directors Report:

Capturing praise, capturing donations- on the rec website.

The Directors report will be appended to the meeting minutes as presented.

6. Discussion of upcoming dates of interest;

Fall swim lessons- are full for the fall session. Halloween in the Rusty Parker Park is happening. River of Lights planning is under way. May introduce another vacation camp.

Members and attendees are encouraged to review recreation opportunities and calendar of events at the following Town of Waterbury Website:

<http://waterburyvt.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>

7. Discussion of community center scoping status.

~Rec committee suggest that Nick discuss Stanley Hall as a scoping option with Steve.

Confirm lead member to scoping Committee

~ Bill and Paul will discuss upcoming meeting and who will attend

Discuss the committee's role in the scoping to avoid overlap and pull from strengths of committee

Structure a method of soliciting and organizing feedback from the committee at large without derailing scoping schedule.

8. New Business

Document high points of what is desired in a Rec Center to meet the needs and goals of broader recreation in Waterbury

~Discussion of rec committee checking out other recreation facilities

~Will discuss next steps

Motion to adjourn: Phoebe Pelkey

Second: Bill Minter

Vote: Passed Adjournment NLT 8:00 PM

Town of Waterbury - Parks & Recreation Report
Summer, 2019

PROGRAMMING

This summer was very busy- in addition to expanding the summer day camp, we also added a few new camps.

Summer Day Camp

Historically, the summer day camp used to run Kindergarten through 7th grade. As the demand for affordable childcare rose, the camp had to be cut back a grade each year due to limited space until last year when it was K-4th grade. This left the kids going into middle school with limited options during the summer and it was one of the biggest requests I heard from the public when I first started a little over a year ago. I spent the winter looking for an additional place to run a potential camp out of, since it was clear we were at capacity in our Anderson building/location. The school in town was not willing to work with us and the armory, a former potential spot for rec camps, had changed leadership hands and therefore also ended up not being an option. I turned to Wesley United Methodist Church and met with Skip Flanders who gave me a tour of their facility and space. He was willing to work with us and we settled on a rental price for the use of their basement, parking lot, and grassy lawn with a shelter space. This space was primarily to be used for drop-off, pick-up, and if the weather presented to be a challenge to the campers. We decided to make the Anderson location K-3rd grade so that more spots would be available to that age group, and we moved 4th grade over to the Wesley location and made it 4th – 7th grade. This worked out very well and we had almost 150 kids registered just for the summer day camp program this year- a big jump from the 83 we had last year. We hired more staff, had an additional camp director, and had a field trip every week that both camps attended together, which required two busses. I also brought in Laraway Youth and Family- a mental health agency that works with children who have severe behavioral and emotional trauma. Laraway gave a training to all of our staff, lifeguards included, on ways to handle children with disabilities and how to help foster their involvement in our program. We also restructured all staff training to provide a better orientation with both camp counselors and lifeguards. In addition to this, I had also restructured many parts of the summer camp program, including the behavioral system, to better enhance the effectiveness and inclusion aspects of camp. This proved to be valuable as we saw a decrease in behavioral concerns this summer while implementing this system. With all the turn-over we experienced from last year and having to add additional staff for the new camp, we had many new counselors. We also had new directors- though they had been previous counselors in the past, I had asked them to step up in these new roles. This proved to be difficult for one of the camp directors and the assistant- they needed a lot of support from me to help run their location. This was time consuming, but the successful summer outcome was worth it. The other director did fantastic in their role and will be returning next year. I will be posting for one new camp director next year and hope to secure a more experienced applicant. The summer camp was very busy this year but overall a huge success! The middle school camp director, Bill S., and I think the 4-7 camp will increase in numbers. Talks to secure the church location again has already started- they were very pleased with our program and would like to work with us again for next year.

Central Vermont Hoop Camp

This year I introduced Central Vermont Hoop Camp- a basketball skills-development camp geared toward boys grades 3rd-8th. I had my basketball friend and old coworker come in to lead the camp. He played at the D-3 NCAA level and had run many camps before so we were lucky to get him. We had 17 kids sign up this year for this week-long, half-day camp and we think the numbers will be even higher next year. Due to limited gym time at Crossett Brook, we had to make it only a half-day, but next year we would like to make it a full-day, week long camp for boys, and then another week for girls.

Mini Science Camps

We ran 5 mini summer camps this summer through 'Wicked Cool for Kids' and 'Sciensational Workshops'. Both organizations provide instructors and materials to teach STEM camps/activities. We hosted these camps at Crossett Brook Middle School.

Athletic Camps

This summer we ran a soccer camp through Challenger Sports. We increased numbers for this camp over last year with a total of 26 kids. In addition to the basketball, we also ran 2 week-long tennis camps with Tami Bass as our instructor.

Overnight Camps

We ran 2 overnight camps this summer- 1 in July and 1 in August. We held them at little river state park and I, along with rec staff, ran them. We had 7 the first trip and 3 the next which is great because we were limited to 8 the first trip and 4 the second. Since these were so popular, we plan to run them again next year and maybe increase the number of times we run it.

Pool

The pool had a very successful summer. Many participants gave positive feedback on the new renovations to the pool house, the new staff, and most popularly the new pool director. The pool director, assistant, and I did an overhaul of the pool policies and practices to ensure safer conditions while being as accommodating to the public and community as possible. The outcome was incredible, with waves of compliments coming in almost every day about the new friendly and positive culture. We also ran 3 lifeguard courses out of the pool this summer which helped get our new staff ready, as well as other town organizations such as Stowe, Johnson, Barre, and Montpelier. This summer we also tried out a night pool party. We got J.A. McDonald to donate 2 light towers for the weekend and we opened the pool from 8pm-11pm with music and a dunk tank. While the pool director and I were just feeling this out for next year, it ended up being very successful with over 30 kids showing up. We plan to run this 2 or 3 times next summer. We ran a dogs-only day on the last day of the pool this summer and we had 16 dogs show-up. Overall the pool had a really great year and we are excited to build off of the new culture and improvements.

FACILITIES

We completed some Capital Improvement Projects as well as some other projects this summer at some of our parks and facilities.

Anderson Field

We created a check-in/snack bar/waiting area in the pool house, along with a unisex/family bathroom. We also repainted the floor and the walls. Toilets were replaced with ADA compliant ones and some of the plumbing was updated per the state inspectors request. Wayfinding was added to the building along with a complete cleaning of the common areas. Some lights and electrical were updated as well.

I designed a new park sign that reflects the new wayfinding kiosks going in downtown as part of the main st. reconstruction project. This new sign also has helpful icons to show what is offered at the park, as well as the address. As part of this project we also removed the fence at the beginning of the park as it was too close to the road and served as a safety hazard for emergency personnel coming and leaving the park. Boulders will be placed 6ft off of the road/parking edge to prevent vehicles from driving onto the field.

Dac Rowe Field

New stadium lights and parking lot floodlights were purchased and installed at Dac Rowe field. The old lights were very old and were failing. In addition, the state inspector found many issues with our current below-light electrical system. This required us to complete additional electrical work by moving the transformer and electrical box out of the flood plain, and by running all new wire and conduit to each pole. The work has been completed and we now have a new lighting system that is up-to date and compliant with state regulations.

Another new sign was put up at this park. This new sign also has helpful icons to show what is offered at the park, as well as the address.

A new baseball field temporary fence was purchased- this one being much more durable and visually appealing than the one it replaced. It should last for many years.

Hope Davey

We replaced the broken basketball hoop at Hope Davey with a new, upgraded one. We also had basketball lines painted on the court (and at Anderson as well).

Rusty Parker Park

The rotary came to me during the winter and wanted to donate to replacing the playground structures at Rusty Parker Park. Since this playground was out of safety compliance and didn't meet standards for just replacement, we had to prep the site in order to put new equipment in. A new footprint was created with wood chips and a frame was built to keep them in. I ordered new equipment that replaced the existing equipment and then ordered new equipment that disabled children could use. The new playground looks great and gets a lot of use.