

ADOPTED Minutes
Waterbury Recreation Committee SPECIAL Meeting 08/12/2020
entirely online

(Due to technology, the original meeting notes were lost by the note taker. the minutes below reflect the recollection of the original note taker FGS and amended as needed at the following meeting)

This was a special meeting of the recreation Committee. The meeting was held entirely virtually due the enduring pandemic and also due to connectivity issues experienced at the last attempted meeting

The meeting was available for visual and voice access via Microsoft Teams

Additional attendees were asked to email frank.spaulding@vermont.gov to be added to the attendee list.

The meeting was activated at 6:00 PM to facilitate attendees getting online, but business will not begin until 6:30

In addition attendees may dial in directly to the meeting for voice only [802-528-1543](tel:802-528-1543). This line will be opened at 6:00 PM and held open for the duration of business.

Meeting Begins 6:30

Roll Call:

Committee Members:

Present: Frank Spaulding, Paul Lawson, Barb Blauvet, Bill Minter

Absent: Phoebe Pelkey

Town Employees –

Present: none

Guests: none

1. Note taker: Frank Spaulding Timekeeper:

2. Review Agenda

3. Adopt Meeting Agenda:

A. Motion to adopt:

B. Second:

- C. Discussion:
- D. Vote: passed

4. Adopt Meeting Minutes of 02/12/2020 regular meeting:

- A. Motion to adopt:
- B. Second:
- C. Discussion:
- D. Vote: adopted without change

The following topics were discussed generally with the outcome being a letter (final version attached) to the Recreation Director and the Town manager requesting additional staff presence at the town parks during coming fall.

No other resolutions or decisions were reached.

5. Reaffirmation of the role of Waterbury Recreation in assuring access to recreational resources and opportunities to all citizens and guests of Waterbury, within an atmosphere free of prejudice and harassment.

6. Impacts of COVID on Recreation Programs, Facilities and Finances

- Observations of Committee on use of resources during COVID
 - Each person takes a moment and identifies observations they have made either here or elsewhere that surprised them or reinforced their understanding of the role of recreation in Waterbury.

7. Planning for potential resurgence of COVID

How do we learn from the pain points and opportunities presented during these past 3 months and assist the program and the Community in the coming months.

8. Does COVID teach us something about the direction of Recreation in Waterbury?

9. Adjournment NLT 8:00 PM

Recreation Committee, Town of Waterbury, Vermont
Members; Frank Spaulding, Paul Lawson, Bill Minter, Phoebe Pelkey, Barb Blauvelt

August 20, 2020

Nick Nadeau, Recreation Director
Bill Shepeluk, Town Manager

We are recommending and requesting that the Town seek funding which may be available through Federal CARES Act to provide staff presence at several key recreation points in the town.

The continuation of the COVID Pandemic has made it apparent that the increased demand on dispersed and outdoor recreation facilities remains strong. With the end of summer programming limited structured programming, school only marginally in session, it becomes apparent that this demand will only continue, especially for youth too old for structured programming.

This spring when there were widespread closures to answer the threat of COVID, it became apparent that demand and desire to be outside will drive residents to these facilities, and will do so in spite of any order short of an enforced mandatory shelter in place order.

Additionally, the youth of our town are struggling in the vacuum of social isolation caused by the closure of most programs, camps and sports leagues. A condition soon to be exacerbated by the limited in school time. With parents trying to work, school not in session, youth will gather anyway, they need a safe outlet.

We are convinced that if people are going to satisfy the basic desire to be social and outside that there is no safer place to do so than in a well maintained, cleaned, serviced and staffed recreation area.

The proposal is for staff presence at Hope Davey and Anderson Fields. In addition, service and maintenance of toilet facilities at all locations as late into the season as possible.

Hours would be focused on later on school days and weekends while the weather is good.

Duties could include;

- General upkeep and custodial maintenance.
 - (Litter, restrooms, cleaning such as wiping down touch points etc)
- Encouragement of safe behavior such as physical distancing and masking
- Programming appropriate for the current guidance for such activities.
- Eyes on the facilities
 - Maintain a presence that promotes good behavior, yet is very light on enforcement.
- It would be best if they were as close to peer age of the users as reasonable yet still carry the authority to promote good behavior, deescalate bad behavior, reach out to appropriate other adults or town staff for support with incidents that need further attention and have the presence of mind to notify EMT's or the police should the need arise.

We are ready to discuss this proposal further.

Waterbury Recreation Committee

