



RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

March 6, 2024

7:00 PM

Remote Zoom Meeting

Present: Hema Santhanakrishnan (HS), Commissioner; Joe Will (JW), Chair; Steve Trimble (ST), Clerk; Melissa Settipani-Rufo (MSR), Recreation Director

Absent: David Martin (DM) Select Board Liaison

Public Attendees: Jeff Bergart

JW opened the meeting opened at 7:04 PM

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes from February 6th, 2024. No comments raised. Minutes accepted as amended.
2. Residents' Concerns.
 - a. None
3. Reports:
 - a) *Events, Programs, & Facilities*
 - a. Pride event planning underway. Maura Haberman is coordinating the concert events.
 - b. MSR went over some courses and classes offered this spring.
 - c. Pick-up women's basketball added to the new court on Elm Street.
 - d. Recreation and Economic Development Departments held a business sponsor "Thank You" luncheon.
 - e. Camp Acton access road is scheduled to be fixed.
 - f. The marionette show series is doing well and the next one is this week. All shows are sold out.

b) *Main Street Campus*

The dog park and McManus Manor are almost ready for the construction phase of the project.

c) *Community Preservation Act*

a) *Current Projects*

- o *Gardner Playground Renovation*
 - MSR notes updates are in discussion between Corey York and HDC.
 - Repair parts are in for the merry-go-round, but KOMPAN needed to wait for installing them due to the popularity of the playground.
- o *NARA Bridge Boardwalk*
 - MSR stated the work is in process and it should be ready for NARA opening. At this time, the railings are being installed.

b) *2024 Projects – presented in December*

- o Jones Shade Structure – ST noted it as a priority two with the CPC.
- o Sports Plaza Shade Structure – ST noted as a priority one with the CPC.
- o Dog Park – ST noted that Tom Gillispie stated it must receive some CPA funding or the park is in jeopardy of not being completed.

II. New/Special Business

4. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)

- a. MSR noted the first draft is close to completion. The deadline is in April for when it must be ready for a SB agenda. The OSRP is in digital book format. It contains new photos from a public photo contest and all comments gathered from the public input meetings.

5. Recreation Volunteer of the Year

- a. Steve Trimble nominated as Volunteer of the Year by the Recreation staff and approved by the Recreation Commission, which will be presented at the July 4th Celebration.

6. Additional Business

- a. July 4th opportunity for 250th Committee raised by ST to introduce merchandising and other publicity of the event in 2025.
- b. Jeff B. raised a question on the impact to Recreation if the override fails. MSR stated only the staff salaries come from the general fund and all other expenditures come from the revolving fund. If the override fails, it may result in less staff at NARA resulting, therefore, in fewer children at summer camp, as Recreation Office staff salaries may be shifted to the Recreation revolving fund. It was noted that the July 4th budget used to be split evenly among Recreation, Donelan's, and Gould's, but it is now 100% Town funded.

ST motions to adjourn, HS seconded, all approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Upcoming Recreation Commission Meetings

Date	Time	Location
April 3, 2024	7:00 PM	Virtual
May 1, 2024	7:00 PM	Virtual
June 5, 2024	7:00 PM	Virtual