

New Hartford Recreation
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Call to Order: 5:17pm

Members Present: Sally O'Neill, Ed McCann, Arnie Helt, Joe Petrarca, Mark McCarthy

Members Absent: Roxanne Helt

Others Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Recreation Director Christy Tellier, Kim Spath, Charlie Spath, Mike Wilson, Elaine Murphy, Pam Fitzgerald

Approval of Minutes: Arnie made a motion, and Joes 2nd to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2017. Motion passed.

Minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting were tabled.

Opportunity For Public Comment:

No public comment.

Financials:

Reports were reviewed. Budget is within scope.

Activities:

Fishing Derby - \$1000 grand prize was awarded. Rules had been adjusted to ensure if a tagged fish was caught, there would be a winner. Discussion of increasing marketing efforts in future years.

Farmer's Marekt started last Thursday. There were 8 vendors in total - small, local farms and vendors.

Triathlon occurring on Sunday.

Camp is progressing well, registration numbers are light. School got out very late severely impacting the first week, and the independence day holiday mid-week impacted the 2nd week of camp.

Beach – Stickers are still selling. 540 sold so far. Mike was introduced – the current waterfront director. Stated the guards are trying to be more efficient and enforcing the guest fee policy more efficiently. Arnie commented that he had personally received some complaints about people without stickers. He was at the beach and checked cars

himself. Feels the guards are doing a good job at managing the waterfront traffic. He requested that signs be put up regarding walk-ins still needing a sticker.

Moorings / Canoe spots – still a few open spaces for rent.

New Business:

Charlie Spath was present to present an idea for an Eagle Scout project. He provided information and details on a giant checker / chess board that he would like to install at the park. A cart would be provided to store the playing pieces in. It was discussed that it could be installed near a building so the cart could be put away. The playing surface of the board would be made out of pavers at approximately 11x11, with pressure treated wood installed around the outer edge to help maintain shape. As part of the Eagle project, Charlie would fundraise the money. He suggested installation near the basketball / tennis courts or near the preschool building near the swing set. It was agreed that near the building would be a better option.

Joe made a motion

To approve the request made by Charlie Spath to build a large outdoor checker / chess board as a Boy Scout Eagle Scout project.

Arnie 2nd. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Basketball backboards at Browns have been broken. Discussion about replacement of the backboard, possibly the poles, and what pieces should be replaced. The discussion was tabled for more research to be done.

Brodie Playground – a letter was received from the insurance company stating the playground was in good condition. Sally additionally had a conversation with a resident stating they were appalled at the condition of the playground. The issue was discussed and decided that the insurance company found no fault and some wear and tear is normal and condition can be a matter of perspective.

Other Business:

Dan introduced Elaine and Pam to the commission. They are in the process of becoming involved with running the Friends of Brodie and were looking for ideas of projects to raise money for. Arnie stated he felt the field house should be a first priority with staining and exterior repair. Berkshire hall was also in need of stain soon. He expressed his concern regarding maintenance and the importance of maintaining what we currently have. The playground was discussed – it was built, but mulch replacement costs approximately \$8,000 - \$10,000 and is needed on a regular basis. The original members of the Friends of Brodie group were looking to replace the signage for the park using some of the remaining funds that had been raised to date. Sally expressed concern that any repairs, installations, and maintenance occurring at the park must

presented to the Recreation Commission for approvals. Elaine advised that the signs were just at the beginning stages and nothing was finalized or approved yet.

Football cheer mats – request was made by Christy to see if the Rec Commission would consider making a donation towards new cheer mats for the Football & Cheer program. Discussion was had and a total cost was requested.

Dan advised the commission that the Brodie House demolition had been completed. Landscaping work will continue, possible removal of some trees to come.

Lights in the Brodie Parking lot were replaced with LED fixtures.

Old Business

Putnam Tennis performed maintenance on the tennis courts at Brodie. Lots of rocks were removed – they are pushed up with the frost heaves each year.

Discussion of locking the beach gate at night was had. Concern about cars being locked in from canoe / kayakers who do not make it back before lifeguards leave.

Arnie made a motion to adjourn at 6:27pm seconded by Mark. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christy Tellier
Recreation Director