

New Hartford Recreation Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

Town Hall

Members Present: John Maschi, Maureen Morris, Paul Korzynski, Don Govotski, Dan Eddy,

Steve Tuxbury

Members Absent: Ed Smith

Others Present: Dennis Minor, Mary Baker, John Hudson, and Maria Moore.

Approval of Minutes: Dan Eddy made a motion to approve the minutes from June 5, 2013 and that motion was seconded by Don Govotski. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Opportunity for Public to Speak: John Hudson inquired about the possibility of a specialized program for youth with special needs. He wanted to know if there was money available for such a program. It was suggested that Mr. Hudson get in touch with Dennis in order to move this plan along as John Maschi agreed to the relevance of this initiative.

Correspondence: The New Hartford Wolverines Football and Cheer program submitted a donation request. It has been a prior practice of the Recreation Commission to allocate money for youth sports after the submission request and financials have been secured. A motion was made by Don Govotski to allocate \$1000 to The New Hartford Wolverines Football and Cheer program and seconded by John Mashchi. Steve Tuxbury inquired about budget deficits and the need to hold off on making the donation to the program until more information was obtained. Dan Eddy explained how line item deficits were managed.

Finance:

Line item deficits were noted in both the Contracted services line item as well as the seasonal help for maintenance line item. Dennis mentioned that line item adjustments will be made by Dan Jerram with respect to the seasonal help for maintenance line items and there will be some adjustments made to the contracted services line item as well. Dennis stated that there were some additional services added last year; however, the contracted services line item was not increased.

The program account balance to date showed a balance of \$121,559.83 with salaries at \$89,162.38. Dennis stated that there were still some outstanding bills that could total roughly \$4K. The camp season was very successful and the billing was done differently this year. The billing was broken down into blocks where patrons could pay for extended morning, regular camp and extended day camp. Also, the cost of staying after a specialty camp was required that a fee be charged with the new price structure.

Recreation Director's Report:

Dennis discussed new programming that could bring in additional revenue for the fall and winter months. The Afterschool program was met with some resistance in the past but Dennis felt that this would be an extension of what the department is currently doing. Highlights of the program will include but are not limited to transportation, help with homework, anti-bullying workshops, special guest and field trips. Dennis will check to see if there are any state requirements for the program.

There are several home school groups in town that are looking for places to meet. The Recreation Department will be meeting with those groups in order to work out meeting times and prices as it relates to starting a home school network in collaboration with the Recreation Department.

The Brodie House will possibly be vacant within the next couple months. Dan Eddy asked that the Building Inspector be called in to give us an outline of what's needed in order to have the house serve as a center for special activities, day camp or special meetings. John mentioned that there was money in the Capital account for pre-work to be done as it relates to certain inspections that would enable the Commission to make decisions in advance of occupancy.

Access to the Game's cabin was limited over the summer due to the condition of the foundation. Currently the cabin is used for summer activities including day camp and the storage of equipment for the football program. Dan Eddy asked that the Building Inspector take a look at the cabin in order that he may give the Commission a report on the health of the cabin. John Maschi also asked Dennis to get quotes as it relates to fixing the foundation.

Callahan Park was discussed by the Commission as it is seen as the gateway to our town. Members wanted to be more aggressive in getting the park beautified. Steve wanted to know how much could be done since we do not own the park. Dan Eddy thought that it would be a good idea to consult with the road crew in order that they may use their equipment and manpower to help with a cleanup project. John mentioned that we have \$10K in the capital account that was allocated for Callahan Park to make sure that it's safe and clean for starters.

The YEP program will have a Kick-off in conjunction with the YMCA-Winsted on Wednesday September 25th. Transportation will be provided. A \$10K police grant was awarded to the YMCA as a result of the YMCA/NH Rec. partnership. Dan Janco provided a letter of support for inclusion in the grant.

Dennis met with representatives from Hasbro as they will be donating toys to Recreation Department for toy distribution.

Quotes for the beach walkway will be obtained for the October meeting. These quotes will include specs to make the beach handicapped accessible and to help with the wash outs that frequently occur.

A kid's triathlon was recently held at Brodie. All of the activities took place in the park (swimming, biking and running). Plans are underway to make this an annual event.

A support group for families with troubled teens has been established and they will meet once a week at Berkshire Hall.

The July concert series extended three weeks into August this year and plans are to continue that trend going forward.

Forum on Families: Risk to Resiliency is a panel discussion that will take place on Thursday October 17th at Berkshire Hall-7pm. The panel will be addressing issues such as social isolation, peer pressure, anxiety and depression.

The Berkshire Hall backdoor needs to be upgraded. A locksmith has looked at the door and reported that the door has a commercial look with a non commercial door. The door is hard to lock at times and continues to be problematic. Dennis will be seeking door quotes.

John made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Don at 8:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Baker