

New Hartford Recreation
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Members Present: Joe Petrarca, Arnie Helt, Ed McCann, Jeremy Schaller

Members Absent: Linda Aquavia, Mark McCarthy

Others Present: Recreation Director Christy Tellier

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

Opportunity For Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

Update on Old Business:

There was discussion of replacement picnic tables. Ed mentioned needing 12 tables, Christy hadn't inspected but thought that seemed like a lot. Arnie said he had talked to John, park maintenance, who was thinking 10 tables. It was agreed to firm up quantities and obtain pricing. Jeremy stated he has some catalogs he can reference. There was discussion about possibly getting sponsors who could be honored with a plaque posted on the table.

Christy is working on summer plans, scheduling trips, guests, and working on the brochure. She will be working to get all info up online.

Brodie waterfront was discussed – Arnie asked Dan to talk with Dave Helt, the highway superintendent about the project.

Financials:

Discussion of program account balance. Salaries for summer 2018 were significantly over expended. Discussion ensued about staffing levels, salaries. Christy expressed she would work to better manage salaries and schedules, and hire directors who would closer manage the scheduling. Dan added that it was a rough year with some staffing issues. The kids had fun, no one got hurt, which was the most important piece, and there were learning lessons and plans for better management moving forward.

New Business:

Hartford Marathon is no longer going to manage the Litchfield Hills Triathlon. A private group headed by Mark Wilson approached the town as they specialize in these types of events. Mr. Wilson be coming in next week to meet with Dan about continuing the event. Dan asked the

commission if they have any concerns. Jeremy questioned if it raised revenue. It is not a town event, so nothing is generated other than tourism for the event. Dan's meeting with Mr. Wilson would be on Thursday.

Ed asked about the Berkshire Hall rentals and events at Brodie. He suggested more guidelines be given specifically to individuals hosting larger scale events, and that the Rec Commission be consulted for input prior to the events being held, specifically for parking. Dan advised that it is absolutely under the purview of the Rec Commission to have those discussions. Arnie stated he would like to see the parking changed for New Hartford Day, Lions Club Flea Market, etc. moved to not be on the side of the hill near the playground.

Timers on lights at Berkshire parking lot were discussed. Christy to inspect.

New Hartford Day was discussed. Dan stated that the event needed to change and grow with the times, that it wasn't drawing people despite more booths. Attendance was light, there was little draw. He approved the Commission talking to the group about modifying the parking.

Ice skating rink is up.

Joe asked about the tennis nets still being up. Dan stated they haven't been taken down in the past.

Joe asked about the coordination of the Rails to Trails project. Dan stated there was \$120,000 grant awarded. He had met with an engineer, legal and design. There still needs to be community meetings and the design process. \$30,000 of town funds have been set aside. A proposed route has been submitted.

Butler Farm has modifications underway.

Jeremy advised the commission that the bike trails in Nepaug were almost done and it should be a huge draw for spring mountain bikers. Still need to address parking. DEEP put a gate on the end of the trail. Dan stated he would talk to DEEP about making parking for approximately 30 cars. There is approximately 12 miles of trails, and another 6 going in.

Ed asked about the rot in the wall near the door of the Cub Scout Cabin. Dan stated he had a meeting scheduled with the Cub Scout group about the responsibilities of the cabin.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes were tabled for next meeting.

Arnie made a motion to adjourn at 9:17 pm seconded by Jeremy. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christy Tellier
Recreation Director