

**New Hartford Recreation**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

**Call to Order:** 7:05 pm

**Members Present:** Joe Petrarca, Arnie Helt, Ed McCann, Greg O'Brien, Jeremy Schaller

**Members Absent:** Mark McCarthy, Linda Aquavia

**Others Present:** Recreation Director Christy Tellier, Pam Fitzgerald, Jean Darlington, Ed Marchena

**Opportunity For Public Comment:**

Jean Darlington spoke about Open Space. They've been working on trails at the Butler Farm property clearing weeds. They would like to work with the Rec Commission on the Kearney Trail (trail from Brodie North to Brodie South). She explained the trail system at Brodie Park South and the interesting natural resources. She expressed an interest in the 3 commissions (Rec, Open Space and Conservation) to do more activities. There are varied and interesting habitats at Brodie.

Joe asked if she was thinking things like guided hikes by experts in the field. Jean said she was, that a lot of people have an interest. There was discussion about the Hessian encampment that existed at one time, Shawtown, and the historical component that exists in the area. Jean advised that her family had cleaned up the kiosk area and repaired it from vandalism. Arnie was appreciative and commented on how nice it looked.

Jeremy asked how Jean envisioned a guided trail being made. Jean stated that the Conservation Commission would like to make a numbered trail map. There is a pamphlet in existence of the current trail. She imagined it being a guided hike. Greg commented that Topsmead has a trail with small signs explaining different areas of interesting foliage or natural resources. Jean replied that there would need to be a budget for making the signs. She thought there could be a collaborative public awareness event to kick off the hikes. Jeremy suggested that Pat Casey may have some historical information about the area that could help. Jean stated she would contact him. Jeremy suggest interpretive signs.

Brodie Park Inc. – Pam Fitzgerald advised the commission that Big Wheels at Brodie was to be held on 9/7/2019 and asked that mowing be put on the agenda for the parks. Arnie replied that the mowing is fine. He explained how he would like to see parking at the upper field with the 4 different entrances. Entrance 3 & 4 (2 closest to the field house) would be roped off for in and out of the parking area. He asked that Pam talk with Johnny (DPW) the week before New Hartford Day this year regarding parking. Pam stated that people attending Big Wheels self-park, and the Scouts handle New Hartford Day Parking. Pam stated they would put signage up,

and Arnie offered to put up cones, caution tape and takes. Arnie and Ed advised that Johnny (DPW) would put those up.

Pam asked for help with disposing of 2 huge tires that belong to Friends of Brodie that will no longer be used. Joe / Christy will look into disposing of them.

Pam asked about the cabin that has been assigned for their use – cabin 9. Arnie stated that it is a shared entrance, and they would have use of the left side of the interior of the building. Pam asked if they would be permitted to use the snack shack for Big Wheels. It was agreed that was fine, the area is used only during camp and the electricity is always on.

Pam asked about a notice they received that Brodie Park, Inc. has received a personal property assessment of \$2,800 and she hasn't been able to figure out what it was for. She said she spoke to the assessor but is still unclear. The form states they have to fill it out, but then they got a tax bill. Jeremy advised Pam to talk to the tax office and it was recommended she talk to Christine for more detailed clarification. Pam wanted to make sure they wouldn't get taxed on the building they were using. Both Ed and Joe advised Pam that proper channels at town hall needed to be gone through for building permits and changes if they plan on doing any remodeling. Just painting on the interior is fine, but any outdoor modifications would need to be approved by the Rec Commission.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the April 10, 2019 meeting.

Arnie made a motion to approve the minutes. Greg 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in favor, with Jeremy abstaining.

Minutes of the June 18, 2019 meeting.

Greg made a motion to approve the minutes. Ed 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in favor.

Minutes of the July 10, 2019 meeting.

Ed made a motion to approve the minutes. Arnie 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in favor.

### **Summer Program Updates**

**Camp** - Have seen an increased number of late sign ups, people showing up. Wanting hourly babysitting. There was several injuries that occurred, but handled well and appropriately by staff. Several bee stings happened and yellow jacket removal was called to handle. Very few complaints. Last day is Friday. Considering our camp numbers saw an increase in participation of 50-70%, the complaints and injuries are really minimal. The State inspector came out on 8/6 and camp was evaluated. Everything went well, with a couple policy recommendations. They recommended creating a policy on reuniting children with parents after an evacuation. They also recommended we practice a multi-hazard drill – in case we have multiple natural disasters happening at camp at once. They stated we need to obtain written parental permission to evacuate children in the event of an emergency. They also recommended written approval of our discipline policy.

**Beach**

Total of approximately 40 stickers less sold this year – 30 of which were non-residents. This is a loss of revenue of approximately \$4000-5000. There was also a revenue shift in stickers from resident to resident senior. There is some question if grandparents purchasing are stickers for kids, but it is difficult to monitor who is driving a car with a sticker already placed on it. The lifeguard work schedule has been revised to reduce the amount of guards on. Guards aren't happy with a reduction in hours, but coverage seems fine. Lifeguards have been enforcing "no swimming" in the canoe launch area and a sign has been put up that says "watercraft access only". There was complaints about access and people hanging out and swimming in that area. There have been some complaints about the time the gate is opening, but the gate is open when lifeguards are on duty. There have been some social media posts that people are getting in on "day passes" for \$5, but there seems to be no validity and it is more a he said/she said situation. We did have some folks coming down on a friends pass paying guest fees consistently, but once it was frequent enough to be noticed, the guards started checking licenses to match the passholder to cars and to guests and enforcing that the passholder must be present. There has been an increase in patrons who are unpleasant, more vocal, and entitled this year. Guards have been personally insulted and police have had to be called on more than one occasion.

**Financials:**

A brief review of financials were given. Everything is in order. An unanticipated \$4900 for mulch was taken out of the program account. Even after that and payroll and expenses, a reasonable profit is projected.

**Other Business:**

The plumbing in the Brodie cabins is being evaluated. There are a number of cabins and other repairs that need fixing. A list of maintenance items will be created. Discussion about camp being reminded to put equipment away daily. Ed advised he received a basketball backboard donation to use at Browns. Greg discussed starting meetings at 6:00 instead of 7:00. It was agreed that would work for the commission. New Hartford Day is coming up on Sept. 15. Greg will be signing the national anthem and making announcements. Triathlon went well. Discussion about the dust in the driveway near the playground. Seems excessive. Discussed the use of calcium chloride to help temporarily to keep dust out of the play areas. Arnie to talk to DPW.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christy Tellier  
Recreation Director