

New Hartford Recreation
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Call to Order: 7:10 pm

Members Present: Joe Petrarca, Arnie Helt, Ed McCann, Greg O'Brien, Linda Aquavia

Members Absent: Mark McCarthy, Jeremy Schaller

Others Present: Recreation Director Christy Tellier, Elaine Murphy, Pat Cunningham

At the onset of the meeting, the Commission held a moment of silence for the anniversary of 9/11.

Opportunity For Public Comment:

Elaine wanted to discuss parking for New Hartford Day. Big Wheels at Brodie had issues surrounding parking because the field had been roped off. Attendees were parked on both sides of the beach road causing traffic and safety issues. Joe asked if anyone was there to guide traffic. Arnie stated that just the sloped area was roped off and there are 4 entrances at Niles Road that could have been used. He felt the issue was there was no one to guide the traffic. Arnie advised that he already spoke with Dan Jerram and Piete Visser from Boy Scouts about the parking for New Hartford Day. It was agreed that if $\frac{3}{4}$ of the field is filled, they could remove the barriers to park in the restricted area. Elaine asked if the restricted area could be made smaller and that the whole field was blocked off. Greg stated he was troubled by the parking issues at Big Wheels, which was a hazard, and he disagreed with limiting parking access. He stated he has attended many events at Brodie and regularly walks the field. He has rarely saw evidence of ruts or issues with the grass. Arnie disagreed saying that the ruts are obvious when on a tractor mowing. The grass grows in, but the field is not useable as a recreational surface. He would like to protect and preserve the area for recreational activities such as walking, sports, kites, etc. Greg didn't want the Boy Scouts to have to handle any hostile attendees if parking is limited, or to have to turn people away. Arnie suggested using the field by the field house. It can be cleared once or twice a year for parking. Joe asked how many cars would be anticipated for New Hartford Day. Elaine stated there was over 300 children at Big Wheels, and estimated about 200 cars. There was further discussion about use of Berkshire Hall lot, a walkway through the section off field. It was resolved that the area would be roped off unless absolutely needed, cars would not be turned away, and stakes can be moved to accommodate on an as needed basis.

Pat Cunningham came to discuss the cyclocross event. Parking for this event is contained to Berkshire Hall lot, with overflow parking in the grassy area on the corner. They had over 200 cars in prior years with no issue. Last year's event had really stormy weather causing more than typical wear and tear. Pat presented a course to the Commission. It was discussed that prior

events damage was minimal, but there was substantial damage last year due to the wet weather. The beach trail is not safe to travel on bikes due to washed out areas. Ed suggested to change the course if the weather is bad again. Arnie agreed that the course looked good, but if the weather is rainy again, the course should be redirected to stay off the grass. Joe commented that a majority of the route is not on the grass. Greg added that October is typically the driest month, so he wouldn't anticipate a problem. The event is to be held Sunday, October 27.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of minutes was tabled.

Summer Program:

Christy reported the summer was good. Ed commented that he felt sometimes we were too nice and accommodating. He suggested adhering to deadlines more and being firmer with registration dates.

Old Business:

There is a plan to get a replacement refrigerator for Berkshire Hall.

Arnie clarified with First Selectman that the Rec Commission does have money budgeted for certain expenses. Ed recommended walking the park to determine needs.

Arnie stated that Johnny found a place for picnic tables at \$225 each for 8' table.

Financials:

A brief review of financials were given. Everything is in order.

New Business:

Discussion of volleyball post installation.

Rick Berneike looked at the Nurse Cabin roof and the lifeguard ramp. Will be providing quote.

Other Business:

Greg proposed meeting at 6pm instead of 7pm. The group agreed to 6:00 meetings moving forward.

Joe and Ed agreed to meet Wednesday, 9/18/19 at 4:00 to walk through Brodie.

Arnie made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm seconded by Greg. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christy Tellier
Recreation Director