

New Hartford Recreation
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Call to Order: 6:09 pm

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

Members Absent: Linda Aquavia, Mark McCarthy

Others Present: Recreation Director Christy Tellier, Elaine Murphy, Pam Fitzgerald

Opportunity For Public Comment:

None

@brodiepark

The new organization @brodiepark / Brodie Park, Inc. members Elaine Murphy and Pam Fitzgerald introduced themselves to commission members. They are a reorganization of Friends of Brodie Park tasked with raising funds for improvements at Brodie Park. Pam gave an overview – their first event was the Race Around the Lake. Several thousand dollars were made and they presented a check for \$1000 to the Recreation Commission. Pam expressed that they would like to collaborate on projects and asked if there were things the commission would like to do. They asked about obtaining permission for projects.

Joe responded by saying that the commission was looking forward to collaborating with them and that for most information, Christy was a good place to start. Joe asked that the Rec Commission be included in their planning process of events that are happening in the town parks. Each event should have a safety plan, insurance and the commission should be in the loop. Elaine stated that she tried to come to meetings but no one ever showed up. Arnie added that it's not so much that the Rec Commission needs to 'grant permission' but he would like to know about events going on beforehand and not after the fact. Ed suggested that events could also be advertised in the Recreation Brochure. Elaine stated that they had asked Christy about that and she said that she would put the information in as long as there was space.

The group has also been working on Big Wheels at Brodie and a couple of other programs that are not yet finalized. They were also asked to take over the coordination of New Hartford Day.

Pam stated that several groups in town have a cabin of their own. She expressed interest in the @brodiepark group obtaining and renovating a cabin for office space. Elaine elaborated that they have no place to meet and they are looking for a space to set up a conference area, set up office equipment, and store event supplies. The topic with Arnie stating that some space was previously offered. They responded by saying they wanted an entire cabin. Jeremy asked what requirements they had for a meeting space. Elaine advised that they have meetings during all

hours of the day, including day time hours. They wanted use of the “Rain Cabin”, stating that they would rehab the cabin, putting in lights, water, a bathroom and convert it to year round use.

The commission expressed concern. Having already had issues with frozen pipes, and new bathrooms at the park are not really feasible. There was concern about giving up a large amount of space that is used in Rec programming. The park is also not consistently plowed throughout the winter months. Jeremy asked about the possibility of sharing a space within the existing Rec spaces. Elaine stated that they would be setting up computers and that would not be ideal. Pam added that they needed a conference area.

Ed stated that the commission would need to assess their needs. The commission was in agreement to research the request further and report back.

Elaine stated that they would be holding a farm to table event as a fundraiser. They had a meeting with a host earlier today. Ed asked how big the committee was for @brodiepark and was told that there are 3 members – Elaine Murphy, Pam Fitzgerald and Dan Jerram. They added that each event has a separate committee of volunteers.

There was concern expressed about the movie nights and parking. Elaine stated that Dan Jerram had roped off appropriate parking.

Arnie asked about Big Wheels at Brodie – where parking would be. If the parking would be in the upper field, he needs to know so it can be mowed before any ropes or set up is installed. He advised they should call Christy or Christine in advance to make arrangements.

Elaine asked about the details that would be required to the Commission if an event was at someone’s house. She added that the Farm to Table would be held at an individual’s private residence. The commission advised that it would be nice to still be in the loop, and Joe further advised that Farmington Valley Health should still be notified, as they should for all events where food is served.

Elaine asked if the group could use the bulletin boards at Brodie Park. She asked about the glass bulletin board by the playground and the lock. She requested a key. Christy advised she thought the lock had previously been removed, but since it must not have, she would find out what needed to be done to remove the lock.

Elaine stated they were looking for volunteers for Big Wheels at Brodie. She referred the commission to the website to check the date and time as they have a lot of planning happening right now. She added that they are using the website for a lot of information such as tickets and applications for sponsorships. The Race Around the Lake applications were also posted there.

Arnie advised them that any advertising signs they put out at the park need to be put in locations that do not interfere with the mowing.

Old Business:

Callahan – new tennis nets were being ordered from Putnam. Christy to check to see if they have been installed.

Brodie Waterfront – still money in Capital for the renovation.

Financials:

Financial were presented, everything within guidelines. No questions.

Review of Activities:

Beach is still going well. Some patrons disgruntled because the gates are being locked on a regular basis. The commission agreed the gates needed to continue to be locked every evening when they left.

Camp is going well. Ed advised Christy that the air conditioner in the Tiny Tots cabin had been left on regularly. Christy stated she would advise camp staff to ensure that the units were turned off daily.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the February 22, 2018, April 11, 2018, and July 11, 2018 meetings were tabled.

Other Business:

Arnie stated that the Chess board Eagle Project was complete. It fits in the space fine. The field house is in need of staining. Also there is a crack in the basketball court at Brodie that needs addressing.

There was discussion of cameras being installed at the park. Look into getting a quote.

Ed made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 pm seconded by Jeremy. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christy Tellier
Recreation Director