

HEATH PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MEETING VIA ZOOM, THURSDAY 12/24/2024 6:30 – 7:30 PM

In Attendance: Chair Michael Cucchiara, Members Shahid Jalil, Bob Dane, Don Lebreux, Ex-Officio Members Pat McGahan, & Lyra Johnson

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2) REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES: October 22, 2024

Chair entertained a motion to accept the minutes. Bob moved the motion, Shah seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3) JR Pickleball Discussion (Pat)

- Hilma ordered the equipment based on the previous vote approving \$535. Everything should be in by Friday, Dec 13.
- The gym floor has been refinished.
- Tim has consulted with Jonathan about raising the silks for Pickleball.
- The court layout has been taped by Steve Lattanzi who runs Pickleball in Rowe.
- Steve has anticipated that there will be enough use to suggest a signup application, so we have a free one on our town webpage through SignUpGenius.com.
- The first night scheduled is this Monday, Dec 16 from 4 to 8 PM.
- I am asking for an increase from the previously approved \$535 to \$600 for the equipment in anticipation of the need for more paddles and pickleballs.
- There will be a donation jar available.

The Chair entertained a motion to increase the previously approved amount of \$535 to \$600 for the purchase of Pickleball equipment for JRMC indoor Pickleball and to designate the source of funding for the equipment as Recreation Fund 20-630-5000-20018. Bob moved, Don seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Jacobs Road Initiatives

- Pat has not followed up with Tim Lively on the dog poop dispenser for Jacobs Road following the BoH approval. She will wait for spring to do that.
- Pat has spoken to Hilma about pickup basketball, but we need to know when Hilltown Youth will be using the gym.

4) MWTP Consortium Grant Updates: (10 mins)

The Highlands Trail Project is in the second phase of a regional trail grant with Rowe to create a long-distance trail to connect Catamount State Forest to Mohawk State Forest in Charlemont. Grant money is being used to pay Franklin Land Trust to meet with landowners regarding easements through their land.

Phase 3 will be building the trails.

Thomas Trowbridge License Agreement is Completed. This will provide a connection from the Burnt Hill Trail to the Howland land on Taylor Brook Road.

5) Winter Trail Work:

Mike spent time on Davenport State Forest (9 acres) putting some yellow and blue blazes on the trail.

P & R received a town grant to survey the land, but not found a surveyor to do it yet.

6) Discussion of Town MWTP Grant: (5 mins): \$25k

- Kiosks – need to get permission for installs, Pat to speak Tim and Hilma about Jacobs Road and the Community Hall; and to Tyson about putting a kiosk set back off the road for HO Cook [on State Farm Road]. P & R wants to build the kiosks in April and May. The grant must be spent by June.
- Survey Discussion - \$5000 is set aside for a survey of existing town forests. Have reached out to a surveyor but have not heard back.

7) Discussion of other Parks & Rec Initiatives: none

8) Other Business Not Anticipated at least 48 hours in advance of meeting:

Date for next meeting was set for January 23 at 6:30 PM.

9) The chair made a motion to adjourn. Bob moved, Shah seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.