

Walpole Recreation Committee

Minutes of 1/10/2024

Members Present: Scott Rodenhauer (Chair), Diane Harty (Recreation Committee Vice-Co Chair) and David Kuniholm (Vice-Co Chair)

Members Absent: Marilou Blaine, Kraig Harlow (Recreation Director) and Evelyn Beliveau.

Guests: 14 Residents (signed in) and Cheryl Mayberry (Selectboard Liaison).

6:07 pm: The Chair started the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and a sign in sheet was passed around. Those in attendance indicated that they were there to discuss pickleball, so the agenda was rearranged to discuss pickleball first.

Approval of Minutes: October 2023 minutes were moved by Scott and seconded by David. Motion approved 3-0. The November 8th, 2023, minutes were moved by Scott, approved 1-Yes and 2 Abstentions since neither attended the Nov meeting. Scott is going to reach out to Marilou who was present for the November meeting and hopefully will be able to attend the next meeting.

Pickleball:

Before discussion began, the chair indicated that everyone would have a 5 min opportunity to express their questions or concerns regarding pickleball. Kim Lewis spoke first asking what the plan was regarding the pickleball courts. They felt it was important to come hear the plans for themselves rather than relying on word of mouth with the larger group of participants. Scott explained the short-term plan and said that he would reach out to Kraig to make a revision regarding the removal of tennis lines on the pickleball court. Residents indicated that they could work with the existing tennis net and posts, so removal could be optional. Residents asked questions regarding the surface, dead spots and asked about how to improve the playing surface. David explained how the court surface was built and how deep the cracks go so repair is not so straightforward and will be short lived. A long-term plan/proposal for replacement of the tennis court surface is at least 1-2 yrs. out based on costing and identify potential funding sources. One resident thought that the long-term plan should get input from a larger group of residents. There were additional questions about the painting and the budget, Recreation would pay for the paint and many of the residents indicated that they would be willing to repaint the surface and add the pickleball lines to save money. The motion was made by Diane and seconded by David to paint the west end of the tennis courts with pickleball lines. Motion approved 2-1.

The 14 residents left the meeting.

Recreation Committee Members: A letter of resignation was acknowledged by the committee from Evelyn Beliveau as she is residing outside of Walpole. 3 letters of interest were received and briefly discussed. It was suggested that having more people on the committee would be a good idea in terms of participation and ensuring a quorum at meetings. It was agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting and that the letters would be shared by Scott with the committee so everyone could familiarize themselves with each person.

Rec Director Position: Diane asked if there was an available Rec Director job description.

Age in Motion: No updates currently

Basketball: In Kraig's absence, Scott provided 3-4 girls update and indicated that He, Jamie Druke and Jocelyn were coaching the 3-4 girls' teams.

Ice Rink: A resident indicated that the tarp is upside down and the white side should be facing upwards to reflect the sun.

Foam Cannon: Scott mentioned this briefly and indicated the Walpole Parent Teacher's Group (WPTG) was interested in perhaps planning a future event with recreation to make use of the cannon.

Revolving fund: Cheryl reminded the committee of the purpose and use of the recreation revolving fund. Which is to support the recreation programs and recreational activities that may not be currently in the budget.

Budget: The town budget is in the stages of final review before the budget hearing on February 8th at 5:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm