

BELCHERTOWN PARKS & RECREATION PUBLIC MEETING

January 10, 2018

Present: Bill Vosburgh, Nancy Kwiatkowski, Tilo Schiffer, Chris Daley, Wilbur Quirk, Brenda Aldrich, Kyle Thibeault, Linda Racicot

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

REVIEW MINUTES

Minutes from meeting November 15 were reviewed. Wilbur made a motion to accept the minutes from the November meeting, *Chris seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Nancy & Tilo abstained*

Minutes from meeting December 13 were reviewed. Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes from the December meeting, *Tilo seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Chris & Wilbur abstained*

OLD BUSINESS

CPA grants submitted.

2 Pickleball Courts, located behind Jabish School, Springfield Rd.

The Belchertown Recreation Dept. has a proposal to install 2 outdoor pickleball courts. Played both indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court, a pickleball court is 20' wide by 44' long. Pickleball is a sport that uses a paddle made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, similar to a whiffle ball, over a net. It uses components from badminton, ping pong and tennis. The game is played with singles or doubles. A court is constructed on a well-drained, flat surface similar to a tennis court.

Level Foley Field, located next to Lake Wallace, 66 State St.

The Belchertown Recreation Dept. is looking to improve Foley field by leveling out an area near the trails towards Lake Wallace. Leveling this area would allow the dept. to move the current baseball field and maximize the additional open field space to use for a variety of sports and programs.

Disc Golf, located at Piper Farm.

The Belchertown Recreation Dept. is looking to create an 18-hole disc golf course at the Piper Farms location. There are now more than 2000 disc golf courses in the United States and Canada, nearly all installed by city and county parks departments. They have found that there are few recreational activities that offer the high benefit to cost ratio of disc golf. Disc golf has relatively low capital and maintenance costs compared with other recreational installations, is environmentally sound and is enjoyed even by beginners of all ages.

Fencing, located at CHCS.

The Belchertown Recreation Dept. would like to add 95 feet of fencing to finish the CHCS field's area in order to keep unauthorized vehicles from driving onto the recreation fields.

Wilbur reported that there were several CPA grants submitted. Wilbur will be in contact with Kyle if the CPC requires more details.

There were several quotes submitted for the pickleball grant and CPC may need clarification of the figures. Kyle was asked to submit photos of the area for the CHCS fence grant. The grant will be changed to read proposal date summer of 2018 not July 1, 2018.

CPC may have a question on the overall dimensions of Foley Field.

CPC may have a concern that a parking lot is needed regarding the disc golf course grant.

Funds not used for 2017 grants are being returned to CPC with the exception of the scoreboard until installation is complete.

A large grant was submitted to CPC for a new walking trail to be constructed around Lake Wallace and the Foley Field area. Kyle commented that he walked the area with those who designed a new trail. He explained the existing trail had too many inclines for the elderly and handicapped.

It was asked if the Recreation Dept. inquired about a discount for the scoreboard because of the time that has lapsed due to it being back ordered. The scoreboard was ordered from Hampden Engineering; unfortunately it is manufactured by a separate company and the back order and cost is out of their control.

Outside funding for a disc golf course will be significant. The committee discussed different ways to generate interest in launching the Friends of the Rec Committee. It was suggested to create a flyer to post on bulletin boards, channel 5 and businesses around town. Information will again be posted on the Recreation website and in the Sentinel. As a member of BOAA, Wilbur will be the contact person for anyone interested.

NEW BUSINESS

Due to the freezing temperatures, Tri-Lakes is planning to offer the annual fishing derby. Channel 5 will be airing an interview with information regarding the derby.

Kyle distributed a conflict of interest packet to each member and asked them to complete it asap.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Basketball teams have been organized and the season has started.

Kindergarten – 40 participants

Instructional 1st & 2nd grade – 10 teams

Recreational 3rd – 8th grade – 14 teams

Suburban 5th-8th grade – 8 teams

Dare 9th-12th grade -9 teams

Our registration website now offers the option of purchasing pool memberships. This is a convenient on line process and members will be issued a card to scan when they enter the pool. The system will have an accurate count of the pool use.

Next Recreation Committee meeting is Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.

Nancy made a motion to adjourn. *Tilo seconded, motion passed 5-0-0.*

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.