

BELCHERTOWN PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2016



Present: Chris Daley, Nancy Kwiatkowski, Bill Vosburgh, Tilo Schiffer, Rob Opalenik, Linda Racicot, John Soja

Absent: Nick O'Connor

Meeting was called to order by Bill at 6:15 p.m.
Late Arrival: Wilbur Quirk 6:25

REVIEW MINUTES

Minutes from April 6, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Bill made a motion to accept the minutes from the April meeting, *Nancy seconded, and motion passed 4-0-0.*

GUEST: Mike Zoufaly

OLD BUSINESS

- >Rob stated that he has not been contacted regarding the 10K earmarked for Foley Field. Rob briefly discussed a plan with Steve Williams. It has been rumored to move the baseball field to the corner which would allow a wide open area for an additional field. Little League became concerned they would be without a field during the restructure. Rob said he has assured Little League nothing would be done without conferring with them and he would not leave them without a field in the interim. Rob stated it would be in the town's best interest to gather all private organizations, the Recreation Dept. and the Recreation Committee and create a design for Foley Field.
- >Nancy asked what's specifically required.
- >Rob said the funds must be obligated or spent by the end of June. He received a quote from Garrow & Sons who suggested leveling and grading the area at a cost of \$9,200. Rob said speaking with Steve Williams there is a possibility to channel a pipe from Tagdell School however the concern is how much water pressure there would be at the end of the line.
- >Nancy asked if anyone had an idea for irrigation.
- >Rob said it would cost approximately \$20,000 to run a pipe from Tagdell however his concern is the lack of pressure.
- >Tilo asked if the Rec Dept. had a water cannon.
- >Rob responded no.
- >Robs stated his opinion would be to pursue a meeting with DPW, complete a plan discussing leveling the area and work with Conservation to get it done.
- >Tilo asked what the plan would be for irrigation.
- >Rob replied rain and fire dept training. He stated the Recreation Dept. would order the seed to complete the project.

- >Rob said the Old Town Hall has completed renovations. A new time clock is mounted, painting is done, new pads have been installed and benches are ordered.

- >Rob said the outdoor basketball court was approved at the town meeting and should be completed the first week of June. The Rec Dept. has also purchased new backboards for the court as well.
- >Bill asked if the bathrooms at the tennis court were going to be opened.
- >John replied that the bathrooms haven't been opened in 3 to 4 years, vandalism occurred.
- >Bill said Little League had asked.

>Rob said port a potties are placed next to Recreation managed fields for Rec programs. The port a potties have remained unlocked so that the playground can utilize them however he has notified the School Dept. if vandalism occurs a lock will be placed on them.

NEW BUSINESS

>Rob stated he was told twenty people applied for the Directors position. A committee will review the applicants at a meeting tomorrow and forward who they feel is most qualified to the Selectmen. Rob stated he felt there is a conflict of interest with some who have applied.

Rob said the committee consisted of Paul Anziano, (Little League) Chris Shea, (C.Y.O) Donna Spraggon, (Stingrays) Gary Brougham, Dawn French (School Committee) Bill Vosburgh, and Steve Williams (Highway Dept.). Matt Jackson was not selected to be on the committee.

>Wilbur stated he wanted to make everyone aware he has submitted an application for the position.

>John also stated he submitted an application as well.

>Wilbur said the Dept. has run very well over the years and was looking forward to a possible interview.

>Rob stated he attended the Town meeting and felt it did not run smoothly. With the budget deficit, he attempted to move funds around however it was not approved. Cathy LeBlond's (Pool coordinator) hours were decreased to 30 hours a week, the Directors position was decreased by 2.5 hours per week and Norm (pool maintenance) was decreased by 10 hours per week. If they were to use the revolving account to make up the difference, there would need to be an increase in cost for all programs. Rob stated he was given notification on Friday.

>Chris stated the Dept. has basically had the same budget for the last 20 years and can't understand the deficit.

>Nancy asked why other departments were not as effected as the Rec Dept.

>Rob said he was told by Gary Brougham that Nick O'Connor made a comment that he would wait until we get a new Director and down scale the dept.

>Nancy said she is frustrated that the Recreation Committee is always being left out of the loop.

>Bill said he is upset that Nick has only been to 3 meetings and we are not being given vital information. Bill stated he will write a letter requesting a new Recreation liaison.

Nancy made a motion to submit a letter of no confidence. *Tilo seconded, motion passed 5-0-0.*

>Rob informed the committee the Patrick Center has a 80K budget and it would be 80K to demolish.

>Rob stated it doesn't make sense that town employee's hours were cut but employees received a cost of living raise.

DIRECTORS REPORT

>Linda stated the summer brochure was release. Several changes occurred this season as instructors requested different locations and a change in the date they normally run their program. There are several new programs included catering to the communities request for additional pre-school programs. There are a few programs that did not make it into the brochure at the time of print and will be released within the next few weeks. Linda stated the Recreation Dept. reached out for adult program instructors in the Recreation newsletter, the website and the Sentinel as suggested however did not get any responses. Linda stated coach-pitch has approximately 80 participants and games will begin soon.

>Rob stated the survey suggested changing the Recreation Dept. hours. Over the past twenty years, the office hours have been changed several times and believes the Recreation Dept. office hours now offered work best and if it's suggested to change the hours, he will let the new Director make that change.

Next meeting is Wednesday June 8, 2016 at 6:15 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.

Bill made a motion to adjourn. Wilbur *seconded, motion passed 5-0-0.*

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.