

BELCHERTOWN RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2015

Present: Chris Daley, Nancy Kwiatkowski, Wilbur Quirk, Bill Vosburgh, Tilo Schiffer, Rob Opalenik, and Linda Racicot

Absent: Nick O'Connor

Meeting was called to order by Bill at 6:18 p.m.

REVIEW MINUTES

Minutes from September 16 meeting were reviewed, Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting, *Chris seconded, and motion passed 4-0-0. Tilo was absent 9-16*

COMMUNITY INPUTS:

Listed on the agenda: Steve Corbin (soccer). – Did not attend.

OLD BUSINESS

>Nancy asked if there are any updates on the skate park.

>Rob stated that Nick met with the skate park committee chair.

>Rob said that a few surrounding towns which have skate parks are not monitored and only have signs posting the rules. Tilo asked if that covers the town liability.

>Chris stated there is a difference between negligence and gross negligence.

>Bill asked if Steve (Highway Dept) has brought fill to Foley Field to improve the road yet.

>Rob thinks he will have some and bring it to Foley.

>Wilbur stated he is now on the CPC committee and Peg Lorraine has also been voted in as a voting member.

>Rob stated he went on the Web for a new application but the web has not been updated.

>Nancy asked what CPC application we will be submitting.

>Rob said to repair the current basketball court at CHCS.

>Rob added West Bro quoted to recondition the court the price would be \$14,500. Palmer Paving would not submit a quote to repair. Rob is waiting for a quote from Vermont Tennis. The town policy is a project costing between \$10 and \$34 thousand dollars requires 3 bids. We will ask for a letter of support from the playground committee, the school board and the selectmen. The Recreation Dept. would also put \$2,500 towards the project.

>Wilbur past out questions that will be asked during an interview the TV station will be conducting with the Recreation Dept.

NEW BUSINESS

>Linda attached prices and details regarding two splash parks in Hampden and Springfield.

>Rob suggested we continue with designing a survey asking the communities input for the tennis court area.

>Bill stated that the Committee should focus on the condemned tennis courts, Foley Field and the CHCS Football Field/Track.

>Tilo asked the status of the wooden playground.

>Rob said DPW submitted a \$8,500 request to take it down but it was unfunded.

>Wilbur asked that everyone on the committee write three questions they would suggest be put on the survey,

>Nancy asked if the committee could submit their questions to Linda 1 week before the next meeting.

>Linda stated she would create a draft survey for the committee to review at the next meeting.

- >Rob suggested that a sub committee handle the survey results.
- >Chris suggested a sub committee meet independently to do this.
- >Nancy stated a Recreation survey was done years ago and they offered a gathering open to the public and approximately 150 showed up.
- >Rob said once we have survey results, he would submit a 5 year plan under capital expense which will also justify requesting grants.

- >Rob attended a meeting regarding Rte 202/courthouse. The meeting was focused on how to help pedestrians walk along this stretch of road. It was stated that there is no funding currently however the Town is working on applications to fund this.
- >Tilo asked if they are looking at one side of the road or both.
- >Rob said both. DPW is submitting a 2 to 3 million dollar project application to the state for this area. An issue that could arise is that Checkers, the gas station, & Dunkin Donuts are all privately owned. The State only owns the railroad bridge.

- >Rob stated 3 people are needed for a conduct board. Chris, Nancy and Tilo volunteered.
- >Bill nominated Nancy for the board, *Wilbur seconded and motion passed 4-0-0*
- >Bill nominated Chris for the board, *Nancy seconded and motion passed 4-0-0*
- >Wilbur nominated Tilo for the board, *Nancy seconded and motion passed 4-0-0*

DIRECTORS REPORT

- >Rob stated the CHCS Pool re-opened Oct 1.
- >Stingrays Swim Team has started a new season with currently 60 participants however several register late so that number is expected to grow.
- >Soccer will be finishing the season soon.

- >Basketball registrations are now available. Suburban numbers are down.
- >Bill asked how the numbers are for St. Francis.
- >Rob stated he spoke to Russ Jopson (Chairman) who believes St. Francis numbers will also be down. Russ said he that possible next season St. Francis would like the Recreation Dept. to merge and have basketball under one umbrella.
- >Chris asked how many high school registrations are there.
- >Rob said year after year we consistently have approximately 100 participants in the high school program.
- >Bill stated he remembered Suburban has had 60 or more tryout and now the numbers have fallen to 35/40.
- >Rob reported that soccer numbers have fallen in Cold Spring and the Recreation Dept. didn't have enough participation to run a program for grades 3-8 this season.

- >The Recreation Dept. and St. Francis together are offering a free basketball clinic on Oct. 16 & 23 for grades 1-8 to create some interest for children to play basketball.
- >The floor will be refinished at Old Town Hall at the end of the month.
- >The Rec Center is being utilized with several rentals this month, Jujitsu, Yoga, Dance and Safe Sitter.

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 6:15 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.
Tilo made a motion to adjourn. *Bill seconded motion, past 5-0-0.*

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.