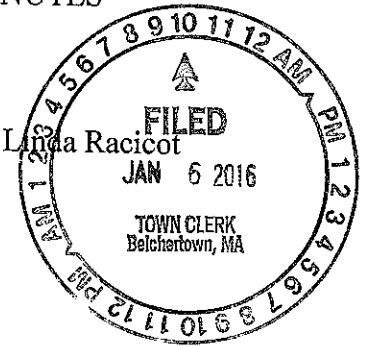


BELCHERTOWN RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2015



Present: Chris Daley, Wilbur Quirk, Bill Vosburgh, Tilo Schiffer, Rob Opalenik, and Linda Racicot
Absent: Nick O'Connor, Nancy Kwiatkowski
Meeting was called to order by Bill at 6:15 p.m.

REVIEW MINUTES

Minutes from October 14, 2015 meeting were reviewed, Tilo made a motion to accept the minutes from the October meeting, *Chris seconded, and motion passed 4-0-0.*

GUEST:

Donna Spraggon arrived 6:15 p.m. Donna was invited by Rob to discuss a community survey.

>Rob stated that Donna has experience creating surveys and asked for her assistance to create a Recreation survey.

He asked that she tell us a little bit about herself and her experience.

>Donna said my name is Donna Spraggon. She is a Lecturer in the Department of Resource Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has expertise in statistical modeling and survey design, particularly applied to ranking systems such as university and college rankings. She has completed research projects for diverse populations addressing such topics as Inuit mental health best practices, surveying literacy and numeracy needs for the Northern Aboriginal Educational Circle, social media best practices, and accountability in education.

>Rob added Donna recently received a grant for a Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the CHCS pool. Donna said a presentation and instruction session will be scheduled soon.

>Wilbur asked if she was a resident of Belchertown

>Donna stated having called Belchertown home for 9 years with her family; she feels it important to be active within the community. She is currently serving her second term as the President of the Belchertown Stingrays Swim Team Board, as well as being the team's scorer. Previously, she assisted coaching recreation soccer and volunteers at Swift River Elementary.

>Rob recommended that Donna be placed on a sub committee with Nancy and Linda to create a survey.

>Everyone agreed.

>Linda referred Committee members to the handouts that she had compiled over the last month with the members suggestions as to what questions they would like asked on the survey.

>Rob explained to Donna that he would like the survey to be focused on the fields and facilities improvement.

>Donna offered that it wouldn't be difficult to include programs into the survey.

>Bill said that he thought that would be a good idea.

>Linda stated there are many reasons why certain programs are not offered through the Recreation Dept. and if the survey results showed the community requesting a specific program, they could be disappointed.

>Donna explained the electronic survey would be general questions and would skip questions that don't apply to the person taking the survey.

>Tilo asked if the survey would be on line.

>Donna said yes. She would compile all the responses and give the committee the results.

>Rob suggested that the sub committee meet and put a survey together to be approved by the committee before releasing it on line. He stated he would like the results by the end of February. He thanked Donna for coming and Linda would be in touch to set up a meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- >Tilo asked what the status was on the material grind we've requested from the Highway Dept. for the entrance to Foley Field.
- >Rob stated the project is on hold.
- >Chris asked when the last time the parking lot at the Town Beach was paved.
- >Bill recalled around 1970.
- >Rob stated he was in the process of drafting a CPC for reconditioning the outdoor basketball court at CHCS. It will be due Dec. 14, 2015. He will be requesting some clarification from the chairman of the CPC on general and specific guidelines. We will be requesting \$10,000 and the Recreation Dept. will add an additional \$1,500. The quote is good for four months with the Recreation Dept. possibly having to add more funds to complete the job.
- >Bill reviewed the drafted CPC and stated he will be sending a support letter.
- >Tilo asked how many letters will be submitted with this CPC
- >Bill stated, the school will also be submitting a letter.

Chris made a motion to accept the CPC to be submitted, *Tilo seconded, and motion passed 4-0-0.*

NEW BUSINESS

- >Rob handed the committee the Capital Request 2015-2018 for review. He stated we are not given money; the money is typically given to the Police and DPW for snow removal.
- >Rob stated there are Belchertown residents who are forming a Community Development Working Group. This is not an approved Town Committee. Rob will be attending a meeting Nov. 23rd for more information regarding this group.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- >Rob said Jujitsu classes will be expanding to an additional night and we are now taking basketball registrations.

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 6:15 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.
Chris made a motion to adjourn. *Bill seconded motion, past 4-0-0.*

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.