

# BELCHERTOWN RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 16, 2015

Present: Wilbur Quirk, Bill Vosburgh, Tilo Schiffer, Nancy Kwiatkowski 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 November 18, 2015 meeting were reviewed, Tilo made a motion to accept the minutes from the November meeting, *Bill seconded, and motion passed 4-0-0.*

Chris Daley arrived 6:22 p.m.

## OLD BUSINESS

>Linda said she met with Donna Spraggon, who will be creating a Recreation survey. Linda passed along several questions and ideas that the Recreation Committee would like to see included in the survey. Donna informed Linda she will be adding a disclaimer to the survey explaining specific areas the Recreation manages but the survey may include areas in town that are not managed by the Recreation Dept. Donna stated to Linda her plan is to have the survey completed by the third week of January and will have the Recreation Committee approve the survey before posting it.

>Tilo asked if Donna could give us an update at the next meeting in January.

>Linda said she would contact Donna and ask if the survey could be ready for review by our next meeting.

>Rob stated the Recreation Dept. was given a formal complaint from a parent whose daughter is registered with the Stingrays Swim Team. The parent felt their daughter was not being given individual attention with her swimming skills from the coach. Rob said he and Cathy met with the coach and emphasized the swimming coaches need to work equally with all swimmers. Rob stated he will follow up with the coach and parents next week.

>Nancy asked if the Recreation Dept. has always run the Stingrays program.

>Rob said yes.

>Rob said he received a letter from the Selectmen, the AD at the High School, DPW Dept. and the Recreation Committee in support of our request for a grant of \$9,000 to help with the cost of reconditioning our basketball court.

>Wilbur added that yes the grant was received. He said the question was asked why the Recreation Dept. isn't building a new court and it was explained that we need to maintain what currently exists.

>Chris asked what the budget is.

>Wilbur said \$250,000.

>Chris asked if money carries over.

>Wilbur said yes but not much. He said in his opinion the grant application was complete and accurate.

>Wilbur stated a grant was also received to repair the rock wall at Parsons Field.

>Rob said the wall is historical and a grant was submitted approximately five years ago however the stairs are falling apart and a grant can not be requested until the town takes care of the area surrounding the stairs and wall.

>Wilbur said the project is expensive.

>Rob said he supports the wall being repaired and his proposal would be to move the wall in towards the field along the road to accommodate accessibility for the handicap.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- >Rob informed the committee that Nick O'Connor formed a group called Community Development Exercise. There was a meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>, which he attended, regarding the land available for development, including fields, walking trails, etc. Several people were in attendance.
- >Nancy asked if this was a sub committee through the Selectmen.
- >Rob said no however it is approved by the Selectmen.
- >Rob stated the meeting was to collect ideas with several good ideas discussed. Rob continued by going through the handout that was given at this meeting and explained in more detail group guidelines, collaborators, master plan and locations.
- >Nancy stated it may help to get grants.
- >Rob said this group has good intentions however he is concerned the Recreation Committee has not been included.
- >Chris asked if anyone heard about the house next to the CHCS.
- >Rob stated the action was postponed and the town was offered to buy the 5.5 acres.
- >Chris asked if developers were interested in the property.
- >Rob said it is not zoned for commercial. Rob said he has no plans to put in a warrant in, the Recreation Dept. has never received a warrant in the past.

#### DIRECTORS REPORT

- >Linda explained there are approximately 170 participants in Recreational 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball, 40 participants in Suburban Basketball and the deadline for High School and Instructional are next week.
- >Bill stated the high school cut 5 or 6 boys and 5 girls after tryouts.

- >Bill asked the Committee if everyone will be able to attend a meeting in January or do we want to schedule a meeting for February.
- >Nancy stated she will not be available for a January meeting.
- >Wilbur said he would like to schedule a meeting in January.

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 6:15 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.  
Nancy made a motion to adjourn. *Chris seconded motion*, past 5-0-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.