

BELCHERTOWN RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2015

Present: Chris Daley, Nancy Kwiatkowski, Tilo Schiffer, Bill Vosburgh, Rob Opalenik, and Linda Racicot
Meeting was called to order by Bill at 6:18 p.m.

>Bill stated that new liaison Nick O'Connor received June's minutes and will be arriving around 7 p.m.

REVIEW MINUTES

Minutes from May 13 meeting were reviewed Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes from the May meeting without Peg, otherwise they would not be accepted. *Chris seconded, motion passed 4-0-0.*

Minutes from June 10 meeting were reviewed Chris made a motion to accept the minutes from the June meeting
Bill seconded, motion passed 4-0-0.

GUESTS

Wilbur Quirk arrived 6:40 p.m. Wilbur is interested in becoming a member of the board and came to observe.

COMMUNITY

>Rob informed the committee that there will be a silent action at Cold Spring Country Club on Sept. 12 to benefit the Belchertown Youth Athletics, (Cold Spring Soccer, Belchertown Lacrosse Assoc, Belchertown/Granby Eagles Football, St. Francis CYO Basketball, Stingray Boosters, Belchertown Little League and the Belchertown Recreation Dept.) The Belchertown Rec Dept. has been promoting this event through advertising and has been told the Rec Dept. will be given a donation. It was explained that the Rec Dept. can not participate with this event as it is a fund-raiser and against town policies. All proceeds will be split evenly to the above private organizations.

OLD BUSINESS

>Rob stated his retirement date has changed to June 30.

>Rob explained the outdoor basketball court below the parking lot at CHCS was put in by the school and belongs to the town. When Jessica's Playground was preparing to build, Rob was asked by Bob LaChance if the Recreation department had any objection to the court being removed. Rob told Bob he had no problem with the court being removed in the future but as of now, the Recreation department had a program running. The court was demolished the following day. Jessica's Playground had verbally promised to build a new court once the playground was complete. They have since rescinded the offer. Rob instead would like to consider fixing the basketball court located near the tennis courts. If we were to request a CPC grant it must be done by Dec. 15.

>Bill asked Rob if he was given quotes and if Rob could inquire a quote to turn the condemned tennis courts into basketball courts.

> Rob said he has a quote of \$65,000 to fix the court. That would include grinding the existing court, adding a 2" membrane and then a 1" coating. Rob stated he was given a quote of \$129,000 to fix the tennis courts but does not see a demand for tennis courts. Rob said a grant would need to be submitted for fixing the basketball court. Rob recommended that the Recreation committee select a representative for the CPC board.

>Bill stated the basketball court, needing repairs, is constantly utilized during the evening under the lights.

>Rob said the lights are on a timer each evening from May thru October. Rob added a one time proposal to do a park grant; all inclusive tennis courts and basketball court could be submitted. Several surrounding town have successfully done so.

>Nancy asked if a grant could be submitted by the school committee.

>Rob suggested a committee, put in a CPC grant to improve the basketball court with letters of support from the school along with private organizations.

>Nancy also suggested a letter of support from the CHCS principle.

- >Bill mentioned hearing an interest to turn the tennis courts into a spray park. A survey should be created generating various ideas for the area.
- >Rob stated he feels the committee should focus on a CPC to improve the basketball courts.
- >Bill stated a park grant could be submitted next July.
- >Rob asked if there was a consensus to put a project in to fixing the old courts however he feels everyone would support putting in a new court.
- >Bill asked for a quote to construct a new court at Foley.
- >Nancy stated she does not feel a court would be used at Foley.
- >Chris asked what other locations could be considered.
- >Bill stated the next step should be seeking quotes for new and reconditioning courts before any decisions are made.
- >Nancy asked the process to put in a new court.
- >Rob explained to build a court correctly; a foundation base should be put down. The foundation should consist of re-mill, which is ground asphalt. If we were to consider a new court, with Rte 181 now being grinded, Rob could be in communication with the highway dept. about using the re-mill.
- >Rob stated there is an area 50 x 80 with some re-mill already in place at Foley field to build a basketball court. Linda & John would like to consider Foley as a location for a new court with a five year plan for additions and improvements to the area.
- Rob said another location could be the old wooden playground however there would be an additional cost of \$85,000.00 to remove the playground.
- >Nancy asked if there is something that the Recreation department needs instead of a basketball court.
- >Bill stated that a survey could be created to see what the community's interests are.

NEW BUSINESS

- >Bill asked if the Recreation Dept. will be managing the skate park. He stated, as we speak, there are 5 kids at the park with no helmets on.
- >Rob said if the Recreation Dept. were to take over management, there would be policies and rules put into place that the skate park committee would not be in favor of.
- >Tilo asked if the town is currently liable.
- >Rob said yes.
- >Nancy stated we shouldn't have anything to do with it unless we have policies in place.

Nick O'Connor arrived at 6:48 p.m.

- >Nick asked for a review of what he missed.
- >Rob informed Nick of the Youth Athletic night which Nick was aware of.
- >Nancy and Tilo stated they created a similar committee approximately 20 years ago and made over \$120,000 to benefit all youth athletic organizations in town.
- >Nick said Chris Shea and Ed Boscher ran the idea of a silent action by Nick who asked that Ed and Chris include the Recreation Dept.

- >Tilo asked if Rob has approached Flag Football with an interest of managing it next season.
- >Rob said we are interested and have plans to meet with those involved.
- >Nick commented the program is well organized as all games are played at one time uniting community.
- > Bill asked if the program is residents only.
- >Rob said he would find out.
- >Nick asked where we stand with a CPC grant for a basketball court and where are we with the removal of the playground.
- >Rob stated it is not in DPW's budget to remove the playground as the cost is \$85,000.00.
- >Nick asked who controls/manages it.

>Rob said the town.

> Nick suggested a park grant be submitted in the existing area of the old Tennis Courts and consider various options for example; Water Park or All purpose field. As it stands now, the tennis courts are an eye sour.

>Rob reviewed what had been discussed earlier with Nick agreeing a survey should be created giving the Recreation Dept. 3 ideas to submit for grants.

>Rob said to submit a CPC grant to fix the tennis court location, the tennis courts need to be condemned. They are currently condemned.

>Nick asked if a sub-committee could be formed to do that.

>Rob said the committee can do that.

>Nick asked that we not schedule programs on election night.

>Rob stated we do not schedule anything on election night however we can't dictate to the private organizations in town.

>Nick stated the kids at the skate park are not using helmets and the gate is left unlocked. He would like to see the Recreation Dept. manage the skate park and put the proper policies in place.

>Nancy stated changes need to be made however managing the skate park would include the upkeep as well.

>Rob stated there was one selectman with a unanimous town vote to support the skate park. It needs to be voted at a town meeting to disband the skate park committee, which Rob does not think will happen. At one time, the Recreation Dept. was open to managing the skate park with specific rules enforced however the skate park committee turned the Rec Dept down so that they could run it the way they wanted. There is no town budget to maintain the skate park.

>Tilo asked what needed to be done to have Wilbur accepted to the committee.

>Nick stated Bill needs to draft a recommendation letter.

>Rob asked the committee, if accepted, to consider Wilbur as a Rec committee representative to the CPC board.

DIRECTORS REPORT

>Rob stated the summer programs were a success with only a few that were cancelled due to lack of participants,

>Rob said field hockey and instructional soccer will be starting soon. The Recreation Dept. did not have enough participants to run 3rd to 8th grade soccer. Those who had signed up were referred to Cold Spring Soccer and/or the So. Hadley Recreation Dept..

>Rob mentioned the Recreation Dept. has a new program called Juiso offered to children and adults. It is a form of karate.

>Rob said we will soon be advertising for suburban basketball coaches.

>Rob informed the committee that the pool has been closed to re-grout which hasn't been done since the pool was built 20 years ago. There were a few cracks found, which were fixed. The pool will be filled, heated and the proper chemicals applied which should all be done by the end of Sept. The Stingrays swim team will soon be accepting registrations and should start mid to late Oct.

>Rob stated the town beach has extended hours to stay open 12-5 p.m. until August 30.

Next meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015 at 6:15 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.

>Nick stated he will not be present at the next Recreation committee meeting. He will read the minutes and touch base with members.

Tilo made a motion to adjourn. Nancy *seconded motion*, past 4-0-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.