

BELCHERTOWN RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
September 16, 2015

Present: Chris Daley, Nancy Kwiatkowski, Bill Vosburgh, Rob Opalenik, and Linda Racicot

Absent: Tilo Schiffer, Nick O'Connor

Meeting was called to order by Bill at 6:20 p.m.

Wilbur Quirk attended as an observer, Bill explaining he will be sworn in as a committee member on Monday.

#### REVIEW MINUTES

Minutes from August 19 meeting were reviewed, Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes from the August meeting, *Bill seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

>Rob stated, regarding renovations on the basketball court next to CHCS, West Boro quoted to recondition the court, the price would be \$24,000. To build a new court with no location indicated, an estimate would be approximately \$37,000. Palmer Paving will be submitting a quote soon. Rob stopped by the high school tennis courts that were being fixed by Vermont Tennis and asked them for a quote on the basketball court.

>Nancy asked if they would also be submitting a quote on the tennis courts.

>Rob said no just the basketball court.

>Rob described what quotes would be coming in to include grinding the existing court, adding a 2" membrane and then a 1" coating verses creating a new court.

>Nancy asked whatever the decision is, could we put in a grant.

>Rob said yes.

>Nancy stated that we would be more apt to receive a grant to fix the courts then replace.

>Bill asked if it is worth the cost to create a new court.

>Rob stated he didn't think so. He felt that the court is mostly utilized in the summer when college kids return from school so in his opinion it wasn't worth the cost to create a new court.

>Rob asked the committee to make a decision at the next meeting whether to repair the existing court or create a new court.

>Nancy felt we need to take care of what we already have adding new.

>Chris, Bill and Wilbur agreed.

#### NEW BUSINESS

>Bill stated he received an email from Nick O'Connor which mentioned Cold Spring Soccer, Little League and the Skate Park. Nick invited Steve Corbin, a coach from Cold Springs Soccer to speak with the committee. The email implied that Steve had concerns with Cold Spring Soccer.

>Rob read Nick's email.

>Rob stated Nick should have called Rob to discuss the issue before requesting to put it on the Committee Meeting agenda. The protocol is anyone with concerns should contact Rob and set up a meeting to discuss the details. If they are not satisfied with the outcome of meeting with the Director, then they would be referred to the committee. Cold Spring Soccer is a private organization with a board of directors and we are not familiar with all of their policies. Rob said he is unsure at this point what Steve Corbin's concerns are as he has never addressed any issues with Rob.

>Bill informed the committee if someone wants to address the committee, an agenda has to be finalized and posted 48 hours prior to meetings.

>Nancy asked if the Rec Dept. runs baseball.

>Rob replied that the Rec Dept. runs the Instructional league ranging from K to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade as well as the Sandy Koufax League which is 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The Rec. Dept has not had a baseball program for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade since Little League formed in town.

>Bill added that Little League covers an age group that includes 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

>Nancy asked if we have something in place if people are not content with private organizations.

- >Rob stated if people aren't satisfied with a private organization, they are welcome to come to the Rec Dept. and discuss options.
- >Nancy stated as far as the Skate Park is concerned, it is her opinion there should be rules posted.
- >Rob stated that Chicopee has 3 skate parks and was informed they are unmonitored however there is policy signs posted. He continued if the Rec Dept. was required to manage the skate park, policies would be put into place.
- >Bill asked Rob if he knew of any issues with baseball.
- >Rob stated he is unaware of any issues.
  
- >Bill asked for a volunteer to be on the CPC committee.
- >Wilbur responded that he would volunteer.
- >Rob said he thought the committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month.
- >Bill informed the committee he would call Colleen and let them know.
- >Nancy offered to help Wilbur with grants.
- >Wilbur accepted and added that he works with Peg Lorraine and thinks Peg would also assist if asked.
  
- >Bill said he talked to Steve (Highway Dept.) about bringing milling from rte 181 to Foley Field to improve the entrance and parking lot.
  
- >Rob asked what type of survey the committee wants to generate for the community.
- >Bill said the survey should include the condemned tennis courts.
- >Rob stated that John & Linda will gather information regarding a spray park.
- >Nancy asked if a lifeguard has to be on duty at a spray park.
- >Rob said no, a spray park has no standing water. Rob continued that Hampton Park installed a spray park that has policies posted however no monitoring. Rob would like the survey to consider an all purpose field be placed at the old tennis courts. Also, Rob would like the skate park and Foley field location to be incorporated into the survey in some way.
- >Wilbur stated he plays tennis on the high school courts, having never waited for court time and doesn't see the need to have additional courts in town.
- >Rob informed the committee, that one problem with the high school courts may be that they don't use a lighting system to turn them on for playing in the evening.
- >Wilbur agreed.
- >Rob said there is a cost to run the lights and the Rec Dept. has looked into token machines at the cost of \$4-6K.
- >Rob stated that Vermont Tennis has informed Rob that the maximum life expectancy of a tennis court is 15-20 years. Rob added the quote received in 2013 for a new tennis court is \$129,000.
- >Bill asked that the survey include a 5 year plan for managed Recreation locations.
- >Nancy stated the survey results should be completed by February.
- >Rob said within a 5 year plan, he would like to see Foley Field walking trail developed/expanded.
- >Bill added that the boy scouts restored a walking trail.
- >Rob stated that there is a wooden bridge that is under water that the snow mobile club had put in place using telephone poles which are hazardous material so they can not be repaired or removed.
- >Rob stated that Foley field was purchased with CPC money, thru the school. He doesn't know if more CPC money can be put into it and would find out by the next meeting.
- >Nancy asked if a duck hunting sign was ever posted at Foley field.
- >Rob said yes, the sign reads: No Hunting, No Shooting from playing fields. He added that duck hunters typically vacate the field by 8 a.m.
- >Bill asked what playing fields are at Constintino.

- >Rob said there is a T-ball baseball/Softball field and a full size soccer field.
- >Rob stated that when the Rec Commission was formed, they had talked about creating a survey and wanted representatives from different groups involved.
- >Bill asked that the next meeting, each committee member come up with three questions for the survey.
  
- >Wilbur explained that the community TV station, aired on channel 191-192 will be conducting an interview with the Rec Dept. including Rob and Linda and asked if Bill would be present as the committee chairperson. He included that questions would be pre-selected and it would be nice to talk about a 5 year plan, survey and get the community involved.
- >Rob stated with the Fair weekend around the corner, the station must be busy so the Rec Dept understands postponing the interview until a later date.

#### DIRECTORS REPORT

- >Rob stated that the Rec Dept. has a new high school art program. Instructor Kim Mook (CHCS art teacher) ran a successful art program this summer and asked to continue a session this fall with the high school age group.
- >Rob said with several requests from the community, we offered a pre-school soccer clinic. The instructor has several years of experience working with small children and this 4 week clinic will be on a trial basis. With a 30 participant maximum, the program was filled within two weeks with several on the waiting list.
- >The Rec Dept. will be distributing a fall flyer for the Belchertown schools emphasizing Stingrays & Suburban Basketball.
- >Rob reported that all of our basketball registrations are now available to the public ranging from K-12 grade.
- >Rob stated the CHCS pool has been drained and in the process of being grouted.
- >Rob declared the Town beach is now closed and the Rec. Dept. had a successful year.
- >Rob stated there has been one report of West Nile in Massachusetts with no impact.
- >Rob said that the Rec Dept. has put an ad in the paper for a clerical part-time position. As of now, 10 people have applied.

Next meeting is Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 6:15 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.  
Nancy made a motion to adjourn. Chris *seconded motion*, past 3-0-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.