

Recreation Advisory Board  
Tuesday, May 25, 2021  
Remote via Zoom  
7:00 PM  
Final Minutes

1. Call to Order

Members Present: Courtney Marshall, Mike Wissler, Stephanie Papakonstantis, Jenn Harrington, Brinn Sullivan, Connor Barry; Julie Gilman, Select Board rep; and Melissa Roy, David Tovey and Greg Bisson of Parks and Rec.

Members Absent: Dan Provost, Val Castonguay

Ms. Papakonstantis called the meeting to order at 7 PM, and read a statement:

As Chair of the Rec Advisory Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Public notice of this meeting was posted on the town website and on the bulletin board of the town offices at 10 Front Street. As provided in that public notice, the public may access the meeting online and via phone. The usual rules of conduct and decorum will apply.

Please note that all votes taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting and who that person is (son, daughter, spouse, etc...), which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

2. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this meeting.

3. Minute Approval

- a. The Board tabled the approval of the March 30, 2021 minutes until the next meeting.

4. Town Sidewalks

Mr. Bisson said a discussion of the sidewalk plan would be tabled until Town Planner Dave Sharples could be present. Ms. Roy said Mr. Sharples wants to put together a townwide sidewalk master plan with input from the Rec Advisory Board. Ms. Papakonstantis mentioned pedestrian/bike improvements made on the Stratham side of CMS, and suggested that it might be worth contacting the person who spearheaded that process to get something like that on the Exeter side.

## 5. Program Updates

### a. Summer Programming

#### i. Summer Camp

Mr. Tovey said that on May 8, the NH Task Force updated camp guidance. Last night Mr. Bisson presented the Select Board with an update on their plans on face masks for camp. Staff will still be required to wear them at most times. Campers will not be required to wear them when in their groups, but will still be wearing them during drop off and pick up, or any time they're indoors or on the playground. They have around 160 campers registered. They still have openings in all but the 5th grade group. They will start virtual staff training next week.

Ms. Papakonstantis asked if they should send an email to families that includes the information about campers not wearing masks, so that people who were reluctant to register may reconsider. Mr. Tovey said he and Ms. Roy have been talking about that. They'll also want to give families the chance to opt out after getting that new information. Ms. Marshall asked how they will encourage kids to stay hydrated, and Mr. Tovey said they'll take frequent water breaks. Each group will also get its own tent for breaks this year.

Mr. Bisson also mentioned the specialty camps; they are partnering with Wicked Cool for Kids to offer a vet school and a Lego camp.

#### ii. Pool Update

Ms. Roy said the pool has been drained and power-washed by the DPW. The Water Department turned the water on, and they will be filling it in the next week or two. The ADA lift has been installed. Cleaning by the Sea will do a deep cleaning every night in the bathhouse. They will ask families to sign in with a name and contact for contact tracing. The max number of people at the pool will be 163. High touch areas will be cleaned 2x a day. Showers and changing rooms will be open. There will be signage around the pool deck regarding any Covid restrictions. They hired 10 lifeguards, and may be hiring 2 more. They're updating the pool staff manual and rules. They need a few more snack shack workers. They're not doing swim lessons, so the pool will be available for open swim for more time each day. Ms. Sullivan said Portsmouth is not doing swim lessons either. Ms. Roy said the opening will be Friday June 18th; it will be a short season, 8 weeks.

### b. Sports Programs

Mr. Tovey said everything's been going smoothly. In Pickleball, there are over 40 registered. Mr. Bisson said they're adding another USDA session for tennis, for newbie kids, in July. There will be a Pickleball tournament hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters, which will donate money for scholarships to Rec programs. Pickleball beginner classes will start this summer. Ms. Papakonstantis said the improved drainage on the softball field has been awesome. Mr. Barry asked if they are replacing the outgoing tennis teacher and if there will be adult lessons this summer.

Mr. Bisson said yes, he's working with other instructors to offer beginner and intermediate tennis lessons.

c. Outdoor Fitness Classes

Mr. Bisson said Barre fitness had 9 people for each class, and will be coming back in the Fall. There will be outdoor Karate classes. Teen mindful yoga camp is for ages 11 - 14 and will be held at Gilman Park.

d. 10K update

Mr. Tovey said the virtual 10K will begin in a week and run through the month of June. There have only been 10 registrations so far, but you can register through the end of June. They have a new sponsor, Runner's Alley in Portsmouth, which will be offering discount performance t-shirts. They will be releasing the t-shirt design soon.

6. Project Updates

a. Gilman Park Guard Rail - Completed

Mr. Bisson said the Gilman Park guard rail and tree planting are complete. The existing guard rail was falling down. AAA Fence did a great job. DPW and Stratham Circle Nursery planted 7 maples.

b. Rec Park pavilion renovation - Partial

The roof was redone at the Rec Park Pavilion, and they will be painting.

c. Brickyard Park shed replacement - arriving in May

d. Rec Park Mini playground renovation

Public Works dug out the playground to the correct depth for playground chips. They replaced the tire swings and installed wear mats.

e. Tennis Infrastructure replacement (nets and poles) - completed

f. Park Street Common

There will be a public input meeting about the Park Street Common. They're looking to make it casual, held at the park, maybe with burgers and hot dogs. The Para association is adopting a spot and doing plantings there. That neighborhood did a fundraiser for three neighbors who had passed away and planted three trees in their honor on Park Street Common.

7. Event Updates

a. Concerts

- i. Mr. Bisson said there is a full schedule of concerts on the Parkway. They pretty much rebooked every band from last year. They have a grant from the NH Arts Council to expand the series, so they may add a couple kids shows during the day. This series will run June 24 - August 19th.

b. Fireworks

- i. Mr. Bisson said the Select Board voted last night to approve the fireworks on July 10th. This is typically the time of the Independence Festival. The

American Heritage Museum will do events on site, but it will be smaller than people remember. American Thunder of North Reading MA got the fireworks bid this year, it was a very impressive package.

ii. Ms. Gilman said she's a member of the Festival Committee, and she invites the public to take part in the community-wide reading of the Declaration of Independence. People can record themselves reading it and submit the videos.

c. Powder Keg

i. Mr. Bisson said it was shortened to the Powder Keg Beer Festival, since there will be no chili. Restaurants are struggling for staff and revenue, so they didn't want to solicit donations of chili from them. There will be two 2-hour sessions, from 11 - 1 and 2 - 4 PM. Entry is \$35. It will be limited to a max of 1,500 people in each session. They will have food trucks and entertainment.

8. Old Business

There was no old business discussed at this meeting.

9. New Business

- a. There will be two movie showings in Swasey Parkway, on June 18th and August 27th. Titles are TBD.
- b. Mr. Wissler asked if they will be watering fields. Mr. Bisson said there is a Level 2 restriction, but athletic fields are exempt. They're doing as minimal watering as possible, so as not to waste water. They're on an every other day watering cycle, but could go to every third day if they needed to.
- c. Mr. Barry was reappointed as an alternate, but he could be a full member if he wishes. Mr. Barry said yes, he accepts the opportunity.

10. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Ms. Sullivan moved to adjourn. Mr. Wissler seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Bartell  
Recording Secretary