

## Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes from Monday November 1st 2021

Members Present were: Kinjal Patel, Wayne Simarrian and Larry Pollard.

Ex Officio Members Present were: Bill Best, Steve Cooke, Steven Florest, Mike Honekamp, Ryan Jette and Bridget Sweet.

The meeting took place at the Recreation Department Office.

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Simarrian at 7:05 PM.

The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read.

### ♦ Fields and Playgrounds Updates

- a) The Beaver Expansion Project went out for bid twice. The first yielded no bids. Some construction professionals were asked for their input regarding the lack of bids. Incorporating some of the suggested changes, the project went out for bid a second time on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2021. Two bids were submitted. The bids were \$250,000 - \$350,000 over budget. It has been decided that the Expansion Project will be completed in phases. Phase 1 is the construction of a lacrosse wall, Phase 2 the playground and Phase 3 a small grass practice field. Much of the work will be done in-house.
- b) Ryan reported that Eagle Scout Rowan O'Rourke has completed his project of relocating one of the holes at the Dacey Disc Golf Course.
- c) The Franklin Youth Football Program is exploring the idea of offering a tackle football program for the spring of 2022. The board discussed the possible impacts of a spring youth football program and how it may affect other already established spring youth sports programs.
- d) The board discussed the possible timeline for the dedication of the Beaver Street Park entrance way to Paul Socci. Ryan will check with family members to establish the most appropriate time.

### ♦ Recreation Programs/Updates

- a) Ryan reported that the Recreation Department's Summer Programs experienced strong participation. The Summer Camp Program had 800 youths participating. The street hockey program had 112 participants. Field hockey, summer basketball and summer track were well attended as well. The Recreation Department also offered 6 Concerts on the Common in conjunction with the Farmers' Market, three Movie Nights and the Community Gardens. Ryan reported that 6 new beds were constructed for the Community Gardens by individuals needing to satisfy Community Service requirements.

- b) Ryan gave an update on the Fall Recreation programs. Ryan was pleased to report that 750 registrations for the Recreation Basketball Program had been received. He also reported that the Girls' Field Hockey program was part of a 19 town league.
- c) Registration for the Recreation Department's Winter Programs began on 11/01/2021. Winter Offerings include: Introduction to Wrestling, Indoor Street Hockey, Indoor Track and Field and Art Exploration. The complete Winter Brochure can be found on the Recreation Departments web page.

#### **♦Fletcher Fund**

- a) Ryan reported that the monies from the Fletcher Fund, for previously approved expenditures, had been deposited in the appropriate account. Approved items could now be ordered.
- b) The Committee discussed the proposed expenditure of \$60,000 to help defray the cost of lighting the area of King Street Park currently used by the Franklin Youth Soccer Program. The Franklin Youth Soccer Program will contribute the bulk of the funds for the lighting project. The Program is currently exploring all of the necessary steps /approvals that are required before this project can go forward. The Committee felt that an additional lighted field would be beneficial and could offer additional opportunities for the Franklin Youth Programs.

#### **♦New Business**

- a) Ryan reported that the Recreation Office will no longer be responsible for reserving porta-jons for the youth sports programs. The youth groups will now be responsible for reserving and paying directly to the company for the porta-jons commencing with the spring 2022 seasons. Ryan will provide all of the necessary information to the youth groups' officers.
- b) Chairman Simarrian (the Recreation Committee's representative to the Community Preservation Committee) announced that funds from the CP Act will be available soon. Initial expenditures will be made in order to add to Franklin's Open Space.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday December 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Recreation Office on Beaver Street.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Pollard