



# TOWN OF SHARON

## RAC Minutes

Town Clerk

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF M.G.L. CHAPTER 39 SECTION 23A AS AMENDED.

---

### Recreation Advisory Committee

**LOCATION OF MEETING: Sharon Community Center**

**DATE & TIME: December 19, 2013**

Rec Advisory Board Mtg – December 19, 2013

Present:

Gary Bluestein Chairman, Steve Lesco, Mitch Blaustein, Margaret, Rick Schantz, Steve Ferrara, Amanda Levasseur and Christine Kasparian. Cary Nevins, Elise Kohn, Matt Baker – all 3 Pop Warner, Dan Rabatsky and Cary Nevins – SYBSA.

7:05 Call to order at Community Center

Minutes approved – Motion to accept Mitch. Rich 2<sup>nd</sup>. Steve Lesco abstained. Unanimous.

Pop Warner – Cary Nevins

New Pop Warner president, Matt Baker, taking over. Cheer coordinator, Elise Kohn.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in Sharon Pop Warner history the Sharon cheerleader girls just came back from Nationals at Disney. They Performed amazingly, Great sportsmanship too. 35 girls went with 30 parents. Flag Football program – 32 participants – 5 & 6 year old kids. This is Incorporated into the full Pop Warner program with same benefits.

Mites team was undefeated, 8–0, there is now a all instructional league. They participated in post season tournament and won both games had 26 participants.

D and C – older levels which had a B and A teams will no longer exist as the middle school has a football program that works with HS coach and HS program.

Cheerleading program will continue to include girls through 8<sup>th</sup> grade even though no Pop Warner football program for them to cheer.

Discussed concussion –equipment certified, helmets certified and re-done every other year, coaches trained, teach kids to tackle safely and prevent injury. EMT at every game. Baseline screening suggested for all players.

Pop Warner stats, 163 total participants – 105 football, 58 cheerleaders

Middle school field is just OK it is the only field that is not irrigated so gets in rough shape from over use. Pop Warner uses a cannon to water when they can. The middle school is a very overused field by many groups.

Snack shack discussed for Middle school field, they were on a list at Southeastern Vocational to help build. Cost is \$20–50K to build with 2 bathrooms, electricity etc. They were going to partner with Lacrosse but neither is pursuing at this time. Pop Warner has only 4 home games per year.

Rick mentioned that Sharon's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming up in 2015. Spoke of ways to get athletic groups involved in celebration. Parade? Sweatshirt with 250<sup>th</sup> logo etc.

Cary Nevins and Dan Rabatsky – President of Baseball and VP of Softball – SYBSA

See attachment with field use for Ames.

3 seasons – Spring, summer travel and fall

Spring – 5–14 year olds. In 2013 they started a pre-k program (4 year olds), over 30 kids in this program.

Lower total numbers than past, this is not a reflection on the program, just demographics of area right now.

Summer travel – every age level plays at various levels A, B and C players are assigned to appropriate team by skill level.

Fall program – always good participants all 5 fields are filled every Saturday and every weekend they are guaranteed 2 games, 7–10 other towns play in this league with multiple teams. All games played are in Sharon with 600–700 kids over entire day. Parking during fall season can be tough and overflows at times.

Some parking on grass by tennis courts when needed. Always is a need for more spaces.

Safety much better now that spots on field side are clear to keep visibility.

Baseball ran it's first baseball tournament this year and it was very successful and plan to do again, roughly 15 teams participated.

Softball – Dan Rabatsky

Spring Rec, Summer travel and Fall

Spring also included pre-K, had 2 girls who were 3 years old. Changed the program somewhat to make it more exciting and make it easier for coaches. Finished spring season with competition – rotate through stations, receive a pin and ball, winners get a ribbon. Lots of passion in 3<sup>rd</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> grade program.

Summer travel – going well

Tournaments – 18–22 teams. Very successful. 2 tournaments

Fall season – practice and games. Anyone showed up could play and try it out. Lots of new faces.

Winter clinics already filling with fall newbies.

Meeting with Selectmen in January about adding banners to Ames Street field fences.

Ames facilities are fine – great guys working the fields. C field still has a water runoff problem, probably somewhat from high school lot a new erosion control needs to be put in place as B field also fills up.

Gary mentioned drainage pipe might need to be cleaned to alleviate some of the drainage problems.

New shed opened up some room for Rec department to store equipment in the brick building, Amanda is very appreciative.

Discussed whether SYBSA will bring back carnival for next spring. Although may not be best fundraiser. Extra expenses added up. Will meet with Selectmen to get approval.

Mitch – parking situation at DS may be a concern with the carnival coming in. Carnival drilled holes in concrete which damages the paving. May need it in contract with Carnival that they fill in all holes they make.

Financially in good shape, Numbers consistent. Fencing still needs to be replaced along Deborah Sampson. Fencing is helpful for safety to force people to use crosswalk. Mike Polimer has been trying to hold it together but it is in such rough shape pi is not working anymore. SYBSA was asked to put in fences many years ago but not sure who should pay for replacement now. Quote is roughly 25K should it be considered as a Capital expense under DPW. Need to see what options are with DPW. Lights on fields good too.

Dave Clifton – Former Recreation Director

Planning for Sharon's 250<sup>th</sup> celebration (2015) update – Amanda, Rick, Christine, Steve and Dave on committee with many others from town. Also, Advisory Committee within committee – Rick Shantz is on Advisory Comm. They will make recommendations to Selectmen. Won't interfere with other annual events but will tie into them.

Town appropriated 50K towards celebration and is hoping to get an allotment from State, Dave Clifton is putting together fundraising committee.

Anniversary Ball – June 20<sup>th</sup> 2015

Official date of Anniversary – June 21, 2015

Some of the ideas, "Sharon Has Talent" event, parade, event at Borderland State park – Civil War reenactment?, ball drop on January 1<sup>st</sup>, winter block party, light up a town building, fall event – candle lighting around lake, bonfire, mini-fireworks, Family week style event with open houses etc. Goal to bring community and people together – unity and diversity in the town of Sharon.

Pole banners/flags with logo through center of town.

Reaching out to sports groups for support/participation. Also support from Rec Advisory Committee.

Dave is also back running the 1<sup>st</sup> grade basketball program. He is seeing kids of kids who took his program years ago!

Christine – Asst. Rec Director report

Fall programs coming to a close she explained that the holiday weeks are tough to host programs. People are away too much. Rec Dept will have February and April vacation week programs included:

Feb – Extreme Science

April – Standing Ovation put on by 2 HS students

Teaching kids about reading, writing and presenting themselves through theater

Basketball – Administrator – accepting and organizing all coaches applications, publicity and marketing, organizing press release presentation in Advocate, formatting by date so easier to read. Using FB and other social media with hashtags. SHARE on FB. Posting daily to the Patch. Social media and marketing seems to have had a big influence on increase number of programs.

2<sup>nd</sup> week of January – winter programs start. Low enrollment right now but hope it will get better closer to start.

Amanda – Rec Director report

Basketball, basketball, basketball! – see report/1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade full. Kindergarten almost full.

Camp dates – last week of June start date for 8 weeks/or June 30<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup>

Arts and More camp set for August 18<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. Still picking themes and performance for Arts and More.

Working with Conservation on a Harbormaster position, this is to monitor boats coming into lake at boat launch as well as activities on the lake. Need to figure out town's position on this issue with regards to invasive species being introduced into water and the best way to alleviate the weed problem.

Some docks are pulled out of water, others are anchored in the water.

Anyone using Recreation facilities needs a facilities use application, schools using rec facilities have to now pay if Rec staffs. Rec Dept is revamping all policies and procedures.

Goals for 2014 – Finish field application process, create contracts for groups that come in and offer programs, re-write staff job descriptions. Ongoing – Committee looking at need for fields and uses, numbers, possible sites etc.

Field Permits – new form, reservations on system. Training Maura to issue Spring/summer permit and then fall permit for groups that are using all seasons.

Amanda is updating the existing rules for the Town Beaches to be reviewed by Advisory Board and then sent to the Selectmen for approval. Boating regulations are town bylaws so it has to go to town meeting to be changed. Changes can be done in conjunction with weed/harbormaster discussion.

Beach Rules wording thoughts: Gary questioned the Hours? Amanda suggested to close the beach with no staff after 6pm but keep the gates open or 8pm fully staffed. Change wording to “staffed” not “open”. Lock gates at 10PM – discuss with police dept. Should be in rules once determined actual gates locked time.

Rick – Personal flotation devices – approved by waterfront personnel needs more description. What is appropriate, how often approved, how monitored, random checks by staff. Should say “exception” under description.

Dogs – Service dogs allowed at all times

Skin diving – should be SCUBA diving,

Amanda will go thru text and simplify and delete some text and send to us all for review. Must be voted on at next meeting so she can present to Selectmen.

Discussed procedural rules such as porta potties at beaches throughout season, open gate times, staffing times, boat launch area staffing and extending fence to water at boat launch, boat launch pass to include trailer sticker, number of water test required each week of summer season higher than other lake user – potentially have Board of Health share cost with Rec. Dept.

Discussed raising fees due to high cost of automated system. Many on board felt that we should not raise fees but could add in a processing fee for those that want sticker mailed to them, others could pick up at Community Center. Amanda will talk to automated company about some options. Further discussion at future meeting.

CPA discussion tabled until next meeting.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Other Business not known 48 hrs. prior:

Discussion on a proposal being discussed to take 2 fields from Deborah Sampson and use that space for part of safety center. They could put 2 fields across street near the Community Gardens site. Consensus of board that that would not be a good plan. Considerations are safety with kids crossing street, destroys continuity of field space/use.

Next meeting – January 16<sup>th</sup>

Motion to adjourn at 9:50PM by Mitch Blaustein. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Lesco.

Prepared by Margaret Marder