

Recreation Advisory Committee

LOCATION OF MEETING: Sharon Community Center

DATE: April 2, 2015

TIME: 7:00PM

Recreation Advisory Committee

Attendees: Gary Bluestein- Chairman, Steve Lesco -Vice Chairman, Cheryl Whiting, Steven Ferrara, Rick Schantz -via tele-conference, Amanda Levasseur - Recreation Director, Christine Kasparian - Assist. Recreation Director

Meeting called to order 7:05 p.m.

Motion made and passed to accept the minutes from the February 26, 2015 with the following correction; adding the name Steven Ferrara to the attendee list as he was mistakenly omitted.

Recreation Update - Amanda Levasseur

Basketball season went extremely well with the season ending the first week of March. With the addition of a paid coordinator, Paul Izzo this season, allowed the recreation department leaders to focus on administration duties and programming for the coming seasons. Parent feedback to the on line evaluation of coaches and the basketball season is very slow in coming in.

Amanda and Christine attended the Mass Recreation Summit in Boston.

Disc Golf is an up and coming activity that is starting to draw attention and growing in popularity. The cost to set up a site could cost anywhere from \$5,000.00 and up.

Summer Concerts contracts are waiting to be signed and returned. Field permits have been assigned.

Interviewing for summer full time help has been ongoing and is in good shape.

The 250 Committee had discussions for the April 12th Arts Festival that is coming up.

Summer programs are filling up fast with great excitement for many of the programs.

Speed Bumps for East Foxboro Street/Deborah Sampson Fields

The past use required the drilling of holes into the roadway to secure them in place. Each year the DPW would need to drill holes in a different location to secure the speed bumps. The problem would be that in the winter the holes would fill with water and freeze causing problems come spring. They are looking into other solutions to help with speed control

Presentation by Sharon Youth Lacrosse - Jim Spoto, Treasurer update regarding the program of the Sharon Youth Lacrosse. 2015 enrollment is estimated to be 170. This number includes both girls (est.75) and boys (est.95). Last year's enrollment numbers were close to 180. Large group has moved onto the high school with another large group in the younger age bracket. Teams play at East Elementary and the Middle School. Because of snow still on the fields Lacrosse has been forced to rent practice time at Fore Kicks in Taunton at a cost of \$175/hour. In the past they have fielded a select travel team in both the U13 and U15. Last year their U13's were few in numbers and joined with the Easton U13's. This year they are not able to field either a U13 or U15 select travel team. Their season is schedule, weather permitting to begin on Sunday, April 12th. They play in the South Central League.

Beach Parking Update

The main beach lot is still closed due to the snow and wet conditions of the lot. Police will be monitoring the parking lot during the school season. Students must purchase a parking sticker in order to use this lot. Cost up to May 1st is \$125.00 and after May 1st the cost goes back to the normal beach fee of \$67.00. This will allow them to use the lot from April 1st, during the beach season, and through the end of October of this year.

Students have been parking illegally at the boat launch area with some cars being ticketed. There are cars which are blocking access to the boat ramp area causing a life safety issue should there be a water rescue emergency. Steven Ferrara expressed concern over this and wondered why cars weren't being towed from the boat launch area due to the life safety issue.

Old Business

Gary discussed the need to begin preparing for the Recreation and Open Space Plan that is to expire on 2016. This is a two report plan, one for each entity. This can be done by hiring an outside firm to prepare these reports or can be done in house. There is a lot of work involved in the preparation and presentation of this report, though it could be a matter of

taking the old report and modifying it to meet the current situation. This report assists in applying for grants and will aid in speeding it along.

New Business

Amanda briefly discussed the Sharon Ecotourism Guide program. The recreation committee needs a volunteer who is willing to be on a committee that will meet about 5 times between April and September. In brief the purpose of the project is to maximize local economic impact of visitors to the town's open space which in turn could help capture tourism dollars by bringing addition visitors to our area. Amanda provided a handout to explains the more finer details of this project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11PM

Respectfully Submitted
Steven Ferrara