

## **Recreation Advisory Committee**

**LOCATION OF MEETING: Sharon Community Center**

**DATE & TIME: December 15, 2016 at 7:00pm**

Recreation Advisory Committee

December 15, 2016

Attendees: Gary Bluestein - Chair, Steve Lesco, Cheryl Whiting, Mitch Blaustein, Rob Maidman; Friends of the Sharon Dog Park, Steve Savrann; New Friends of the Playground, Christine Kasparian; Assistant Recreation Director, Linda Berger; Recreation Director

Meeting called to order 7:03 p.m.

Motion made and passed to accept the minutes from November, 17, 2016

Motion: Steve L.

Second: Cheryl

Unanimous

### **Sharon Dog Park:**

Rob Maidmen, Chairperson of the Friends of the Dog Park, visited Rec Advisory to give an update.

In the past year, there have been no accident reports involving humans, nor animals. Friends of the Dog Park routinely speak with SPD and Animal Control. At this time, the Dog Park is self-policing and self-regulating.

Fundraising has been extremely successful. In June 2016, there was a large fundraising effort where 55-60 business (Including Patriots and Red Sox) donate items for a raffle.

Currently, the infrastructure is intact. Sharon Dog Park recently replaced the inner lock with conventional hook this past year. They were originally using spring loaded Magna Lock. After having to replace it two times a year, they decided to switch over to a conventional hook.

Periodically, tree limbs fall. There were three limb-fall incidents this past year. Sharon Dog Park notifies Kevin Weber, and he takes care of it right away.

Last Spring, a dead limb collapsed on the main fence. The fence needed repair, and the Sharon Dog Park found someone to come over quickly for a minimal fee.

DPW aids the Sharon Dog Park by supplying woodchips and replacing rusted trash receptacles.

The Sharon Dog Park has both an operating budget and endowment. There are no current plans for improvements aside from major weeding.

### **Recreation Update:**

The Recreation Department has been working diligently on Winter Programming. Pre-Engineering, Star Wars Day, STEM Challenge with Lego are three programs coming to Sharon Rec for December Vacation. All three programs have participants and are running. December Newsletter went in every backpack in K-8.

Sharon rec is partnering with Community Ed on a program called jr.Code. Sharon Rec is providing registration and space, and Community Ed is providing transportation. Sharon Rec's very own Christine is teaching Babes on Stage and Broadway Bound this winter. Sharon Rec also has new programs in Aquaponics and App Making.

Sharon Rec is also planning two special events over February Vacation. MOM's Club and Sharon Rec are collaborating on a Frozen Breakfast with Anna, Elsa, and Olaf on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. On Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, Sharon Rec is hosting Sweetheart Dance at Sharon Community Center. Sharon Rec encourages residents to register as soon as possible.

Basketball is underway. Grades 3-8 started November 28<sup>th</sup>, Grades K-2 started on December 10<sup>th</sup>, Grades 9-12 started on December 11<sup>th</sup>. As of right now, leagues are running smoothly.

Sharon Rec is collaborating with multiple community-based organizations on summer programming. They will be working with Community Education on CREATE, Sharon Ed. Foundation on a movie night, and Thursday evening kids concerts with Community Ed, Sharon Education Foundation, Camp Everwood, and Sharon Public Library.

Beech Tree Park has received many donations for their Summer Concert Series. Thank you to all who have donated.

Sharon Rec has started Square Jam planning. At this time, we have two proposals for entertainment: Taylor Hicks, Sioban Magnus. Sharon Rec is seeking generous sponsorships to fund 2017 Square Jam.

The Sharon Recreation Department is seeking Lifeguards and WSIs for Summer 2017. Applications will be available by the end of this month.

### **Waterfront 2017 Rate Proposal**

Last year, first-year waterfront staff was paid sub-minimum wage. In order to be competitive, Sharon Rec is asking for the support of RAC to bring all wages up to minimum wage.

Recommendation to Recreation Director to take new, proposed Waterfront Rates Personnel Board.

Motion: Cheryl

Second: Steve L.

Unanimous

### **Ames Street Playground Update**

Steve Savrann, Chairman of a New Friends of the Playground, is visiting to give an update on the Ames Street Playground Project. He reported there was a New Friends of the Playground (NFP) meeting at the Sharon Community Center on December 15, 2016. There are only 4 members of NFP, but there were 15 residents who came to last evening's meeting. There is definitely a lot of interest in the Community regarding Ames Street Playground!

Most people had left the Nov 30<sup>th</sup> Playground meeting feeling the process was moving too quick. They each had their own concerns, and they decided if they can get our feet moving quickly, NFP would like to be the liaison between Sharon Rec and the Community.

The NFP would like to see a rendering. At this time, they are also putting out a survey to collect data from the community. Linda suggests a deadline for the survey, so data can be properly collected.

There was discussion on having a plan by the beginning of February in order to keep the project on task. Additionally, there was discussion of creating sub-committees to expedite the process.

Gary assures the Town of Sharon will not be ripping out equipment until all parties involved are comfortable with the process. The Community should know Ames Street Playground may be offline this winter, as usage is not as frequent in the colder months.

NFP would like to aid to approve removal of structures. Linda, Gary, and Steve are meeting on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> for a site visit.

NFP and Sharon Rec will revisit the pirate ship renovation/replacement. In order to completely replace the pirate ship, it will be

Parents do not like an idea of a second gate. They do not like the idea that they could possibly get to the pond. DPW is being approached to see if they are able to assist in replacing the back gate near the pond.

Steve brought up the idea of a community build, as well. Sharon Rec and NFP will have to look at the project as a whole in order to properly plan the building process.

At this moment, there is a small timeline:

Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> - Article in Sharon Advocate

Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> - Survey distributed by NFP

Early January 2017 - Meet with Steve, Gary, and Linda on survey feedback.

Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> - Meet with RAC with new, updated plan.

DPW has been informed there will be no removal until after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Veronica recommends a small committee of people with vested interests in the playground being the deciders of the elements that will be placed.

### **Master Plan Follow-Up**

Linda discussed the Open Space and Recreation Plan with Greg Meister, Conservation Agent. He will be bringing it up with Conservation Commission, and he is invited to a Rec Advisory meeting after the most recent Conservation Commission meeting.

### **Other Business**

Sharon Rec is looking for input regarding summer programming. Sharon Rec is considering vendoring out some of the in-house program. Between Waterfront Operations, CREATE & CREATE Jr, Sailing, Swim Lessons, and other activities, Sharon Rec is shopping vendors to assist with summer sport activities.

A more in-depth future discussion will happen at the next Rec Advisory meeting.

Next Meeting: January 19, 2017

Motion to adjourn: Steve L.

Second: Cheryl

Unanimous vote

Meeting adjourned at 8:24PM

Respectfully Submitted

Christine Kasparian, Recreation Advisory Committee