



TOWN OF SHARON

MEETING NOTICE

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

Town Clerk

Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
Sharon Community Center
Thursday, March 15, 2018

Present: Gary Bluestein, Steve Lesco, Cheryl Whiting, Chris Valois, Ro Desai, Steve Ferrara, Rick Schantz
Staff: Linda Berger, Jonathan Lewitus, Maura Palm

Call to Order – Gary called meeting to order at 6:36pm

SYBSA: Representatives, Dan Rabatsky & Gerry Wright came in to discuss baseball/softball with committee.

- Due to severe weather, a lot of trees down on Ames fields. Recreation Department will request removal from DPW once fields are free of snow.
- Weather dependent, water will be turned on 4/15/18.
- Numbers are improving for baseball.
- Leagues are trending to convert diamonds to a transitional 60/70' diamonds. Recommendation from Board: to convert field A to 60/70' transitional diamond to Sharon BOS. Chris V. first/Steve L. second; all in favor/zero opposed
- Linda requested SYBSA keep track of actual time being used on each fields for practices/games to get a better handle on actual use and field rotation vs. blanket permitting.
- Dan stated that some maintenance @ Deborah Sampson needs to be done.
- A few sets of bleachers at Ames Street are in tough shape. The bleachers are being moved but not being moved back as well as the goalie nets. Solution, items will possibly be chained down in future to avoid displacement. Linda reminded SYBSA about ADA compliance/building department regulations if having over 30' high bleachers or requesting permission before ordering new ones.
- Stated that fiscally they are in good shape.
- Stated that girls' numbers are still trending down.
- Discussion on possibly having an informational night to talk about benefits of sports.
- SYBSA offered survey and consensus is that there is poor coaching and as a result, SYBSA brought in Positive Youth Coaching Alliance to improve training with coaches, parents and players.

Approval of February 15th minutes: Steve L. first/Cheryl second; all in favor/zero opposed

Director's Report:

- Linda identified solutions to address the ever popular sailing program. Added an intermediate program for people with prior experience which opened up waitlist for seven new participants in session 3. Investigating option to add a 4th session, based on staff availability.
- Received the Men's Softball permit request/releasing SYBSA permit on 3/16/18.
- Discussion placement of new playground elements at Ames St. Playground should CPC funding get approved at May town meeting.

-Gazebo roof replaced @ Beech Tree Park.

-Much discussion on Civil Defense building going on recreation property. Our board recommended not to have a building @ Deborah Sampson as we recently removed a building on that land. However, at recommendation of CD, Board of Selectmen voted to put it there. Town meeting has final approval. Gary stated personally he does not believe it belongs on recreation property. With new town hall being constructed, old fire station will need to be demolished in July. Civil Defense at that point will temporarily have no home. Discussion on if the building does go on recreation property to make it usable for the Recreation Department also – programs, bathrooms, etc. Steve Ferrara stated that it definitely should be at DPW.

-Beach Signage: Changes have been made as requested. From 8/19-8/26 anticipate having a skeleton staff available and at minimum, will staff to keep bathrooms open to public.

-Basketball championship schedules have changed due to severe weather. At the next meeting will hopefully have all the final figures in to present the whole picture.

Old Business: Ro would like to see long term planning strategy beyond 2018. Linda to set up time to discuss. Suggested doing a SWOT study as currently other town departments, such as Community Education and Library runs a lot of programs that fall under the recreation umbrella. It doesn't make sense to duplicate services/ programs already being offered in other areas of the town.

Suggestion to create needs assessment survey and work with both the Conservation Committee Open Space & Recreation Plan and/or Town Master Plan to ensure recreation needs are identified in their studies.

Other Business: None

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25pm; Steve Lesco-first/Steve Ferrara-second; all in favor-zero opposed

Next Meeting: April 19, 2018