



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, November 21, 2019

Present: Gary Bluestein, Erin Wilkinson, Steve Ferrara, Cheryl Whiting, Chris Valois, Rick Schantz, Ro Desai, Fern Fergus, School Liaison
Staff: Linda Berger, Frank Livera, Maura Palm
Guests: Peg Arguimbau-Chair Conservation; Jack Lee-Pickleball

Call to Order – Gary called meeting to order at 6:31pm

Peg Arguimbau: Peg came in to discuss the Master Plan. She stated that Conservation & the Recreation Department worked together to update. They need letters of endorsement from several groups; hopefully will be approved. Rattlesnake Hill passed – Gary questioned if there is any land available for recreation; Peg stated there wouldn't be any land available for recreation with exception of trails.

Motion to endorse recreation portion of the Master Plan: Cheryl/Steve; all in favor; zero opposed

Pickleball (Jack Yee): Jack came in to discuss need for pickleball courts and the need for a location; possible location is at Deborah Sampson near the tennis courts; Linda spoke with Peter O'Cain and he stated he sees no issues having them in presented location. Will cost approximately \$150,000. Jack stated the group would do some fundraising to offset the cost as he was seeking RAC permission to start raising funds.

Recommendation to Select Board to establish funds to accept donations to offset costs of proposed pickleball courts: Cheryl/Erin; all in favor; zero opposed

Motion to allow Pickleball group to obtain sponsorships to allow signage on proposed new courts: Ro/Rick; all in favor; zero opposed

Motion to approve Recreation Department to apply to CPC to create four (4) dedicated pickleball courts on land adjacent to Deborah Sampson tennis courts (between the existing tennis courts and East Foxboro Street).

Approval of Minutes: Cheryl/Steve – Ro abstained; rest all in favor

Kayak Rentals: Stuart from Adventure Activities USA notified the Linda that the rentals are not profitable enough to continue. Linda stated that possibly the Recreation Department would take it on. Many ideas discussed on how to implement if the Recreation Department does it. Linda also suggested possibly buy items from Stuart if we do in-house. Linda is going to first contact town insurance to determine fee to carry on liability.

Recommendation to bring kayak rentals in house: Chris/Cheryl; all in favor; zero opposed

Beach Fees: Linda stated we had a (\$13,000.00) this year because of salary increases (minimum wage creeping up each year) and various improvements to the beach areas. Steve asked how we could cut back on staff and Linda said that was not possible. Linda stated we should get a sub-committee together to go over the data. Erin, Ro and Cheryl volunteered and will meet and give us their findings at the December 19th meeting. Many ideas proposed about offsetting costs – possibly increase beach fees by 10% among others.

Linda enclosed end of Summer report that showed financials of programs, including beach fees. Sport program numbers are down – will do things differently next year to have a variety. The new sailboats worked out very well – are very durable – money well spent.

Beer Garden: Ro stated Avi Shemtov would like to do a pilot program to have a beer garden at one of the Summer Lakeside Concerts in 2020. Chief Ford told him that if he got support from town leaders – they would accept it. For the upcoming contract for the snack shack it will be adjusted to accept credit/debit cards as well as other food vendor trucks (after 7pm - during concert nights/special events).

Motion to move forward in the process to select 2 dates for the 2020 concert season as a trial for a beer garden at Veteran's Memorial Park Beach Lakeside Concert Series. The Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel should the first pilot not be favorable. Chris/Ro; Cheryl abstained; rest in favor

Assistant Recreation Director's Report: Frank touched on several items, Flag Football had a successful season. Basketball is underway-evaluations have been done and teams/rosters are being set. Trunk or Treat will be held a week earlier so to have a rain date as it got rained out this year. Sharon Credit Union is graciously letting us use both their corporate and bank location for next year's Square Jam to put all food vendors in one local. Now booking the summer concert series for 2020.

Projects: Ezra Schwartz Pavilion: JJ McGrath donated \$1,000.00 to the cause. Bathrooms at Ames and Veteran's Memorial Park Beach have been closed for the season.

Other Business: Gary reached out to Fern to discuss outdoor facilities at the new high school. He discussed the frustration of not having any input from the Recreation Department's point of view. Linda stated that we would like to collaborate with the schools more frequently. Fern asked if other school liaisons had tried to establish collaboration, which most did not. Fern believes we should all be collaborating and do it at a level that would benefit everyone. Gary expressed concerns about the lack of input for large projects. Going forward maybe to have meetings about tennis courts & turf. Fern said she would definitely bring back the Recreation Department's concerns to the School Committee.

Old Business: None

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 19th 6:30PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:37PM – Steve/Cheryl; all in favor; zero opposed