

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

Commission Members Present: Jo Lacaillade, Lynn Wheeler-Selectboard Rep., Barb Dutile and Dianne Rappa.

Recreation Director: Sherri Sargent

Members of the Public Present: Robert Fillion and Jacque Finlay

Call Meeting to Order:

Vice Chairman Lacaillade called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

Approval of Minutes: Lynn Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Dianne Rappa and carried unanimously.

Open Time for public discussion:

Mr. Fillion was in attendance because he had come to the Recreation Commission last year with a proposal to use the Robert E Clifford building while sharing it with the Recreation Commission for their use. He wanted to know the status of that request. Dianne explained to him that it was not a decision for this commission and any such use like that would have to go through the Selectboard. He then stated that he was interested in purchasing the building. Jo Lacaillade and Lynn Wheeler advised him that there are revision clauses in the deed from the National Guard that prohibits it's transfer. Mr. Fillion then asked for a long term lease with the stipulation that the Recreation Department would still be able to use the building for any currently run programs only. He would use the building for a library and museum. He was advised that the area that a tenant is being sought for was a suite of 3 rooms with a bathroom on the north side of the building and that there were already 2 interested parties that the Town is negotiating with.

Jacque Finlay stated that he oversees the ping-pong program at the Robert E Clifford Building and he is very concerned that the Town is looking to lease out that building and it would not be available for recreation. Lynn and Jo clarified that the only area that was being considered for tenants at this time was the 3 room suite on the north side of the front hallway. The rest of the building would remain as it is now for functions, recreation and classrooms. He thanked the Commission for that clarification.

Mr. Fillion said that he felt the Recreation Commission should get involved with the Plymouth State University Civic Forum that they are doing in Haverhill. Lynn Wheeler and Dianne Rappa said that Plymouth State had been very clear that they did not want government involvement in this project. Dianne further stated that she did not feel this was an area that the recreation commission should get involved with.

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Directors Report:** Sherri said that Full Moon Fiesta had been a huge success. She said that Bob Stoddard had kept count of the event and thought that about 200 had attended. Dianne spoke about Winterfest, she stated that there were approximately 80-90 attendees. She was the only member of the Recreation Commission there. Sherri reminded everyone that the Acoustic Music Jam was the following Saturday at the Robert E Clifford Building. The ice fishing class that was planned for February had 16 registrants but had to be postponed until March due to ice issues. Unfortunately there were not enough people registered for the rescheduled date and the class had to be cancelled.

New Business:

- **Class/course options for RECM Building:** Sherri had been approached by someone who wanted to rent space at the Clifford building to hold scrapbooking classes. She does not charge a fee for the class, only the cost of supplies. Sherri was seeking approval to offer these types of things as part of the Recreation Department. Jo felt that recreation does not always have to mean sports and that it might be something to look at. Dianne felt that recreation means activity and this does not qualify. Barb felt that if people are charging for classes, they should have to pay to rent the building just like someone holding an event there. There was a brief discussion about these types of programs being covered under our insurance umbrella if we make them part of the offerings by Haverhill Recreation, otherwise, they have to seek out coverage that may make it impossible to offer. Sherri said that the cost to rent the classroom was not economical for someone like this looking to just hold classes. It was recommended that the Selectboard consider changing the classroom rates to \$50/4 hrs.; \$100/8 hrs.; and \$150/12 hrs.
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Sherri said that the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 19th at the Robert E Clifford Building. Volunteers are needed.
- **Friends of Haverhill Recreation:** Dianne stated that when Sherri was setting up the Full Moon Fiesta course that she had to rely on her husband and kids to put out the torches and lay the trail because rec commission members did not help. She said that Kurt and a young man did help some. Jo stated that this was done during working hours and most members have to be at their jobs. Dianne further stated that no members of the recreation commission showed up for the Winterfest besides her and she drove back from Connecticut to be there. Sherri had been scheduled to be there and then something came up and she could not. Sherri clarified that this was not a Recreation Commission event that we were just co-sponsoring it with the Mountain Lakes Recreation Commission and the American Legion. Dianne feels that a “Friends of Haverhill Recreation” needs to be set up because then they would have people that they could fall back on when help is needed. Jo asked Sherri if she had put anything on Facebook that she needed volunteers and she had not, she said that she had only sent the email to Commission members. Jo felt that, with the following Haverhill Recreation has on Facebook that volunteers are out there, they just need to be aware of the need but she had no issue with having a “friends” group. Mr. Findlay said that he might be interested in becoming a “friend of Haverhill Recreation” or perhaps a regular member, he will give it some thought. He was glad to attend the meeting and see a full view of how it all works.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is April 2, 2014 at 6:00 pm. Dianne will be absent.

Adjourn Meeting: Barb Dutile made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dianne Rappa and carried unanimously. Vice Chairman Lacaille adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Jo Lacaille