

**Town of Haverhill
Parks & Recreation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
R. E. Clifford Memorial Building
65 South Court St.
Woodsville, NH 03785
Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

DRAFT subject to review by the Commission

Commission Members Present:

Jennifer West, Chair (excused)
Sherri Sargent, Recreation Director
Sandi Pierce (excused)

Mona Sanville
Dawn Burleson
Steve Robbins, Select Board liaison

Town Employees Present: None.

Select Board Representative: Steve Robbins

The meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 7:00 PM by Sherri Sargent. A quorum was met.

Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2020

Sargent stated that there was no November meeting; therefore, the October minutes are to be approved.

MOTION #1: Robbins made the motion to accept the minutes from October 7, 2020, Sanville seconded the motion. **Voice vote:** All members stated "Aye." The vote passed unanimously.

Public Discussion: None.

Old Business: Director's Report

- The **Cold Turkey Plunge** was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns to avoid large groups congregating together, and there was low participant interest.
- **Continuing Education.** The Parks & Recreation Director attended remote distance learning classes offered by the NH Municipal Association in November for CPUs.
- **ZOOM Senior Stretch** exercise classes have continued remotely Monday through Fridays from 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM from the Clifford Memorial Building.
- **Pickleball.** Sargent was happy to report that the Monday and Friday Pickleball groups have enough participants for a morning Pickleball game. The Wednesday evening Pickleball game night is at the Clifford Memorial Building from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Sargent will continue this programming until it is no longer deemed safe to do so. Participants sign in at the door, wear masks while playing, and use hand sanitizer upon entering the facility. This is a fun game not only to play, but also to watch! Only 4 people play at a time for social distancing.
- The **Antique Strollers** are walking Monday through Friday at the Clifford Memorial Building. A 6-foot distance is kept between people, hand sanitizer encouraged at the door, and masks are worn. Participants are signing in.

- **Acoustic Music Jams.** The 2021 schedule dates are planned and printed. We will continue to run the event on a week-to-week basis. Our next Jam is Sunday, December 6, 2020, 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM. Sargent stated that people are coming to the Jams. Jim and Ruth Strout are the liaisons for the musicians, and the musicians are willing to come. Sanville noted that there were quite a few audience members at the last event, and all had a good time. Sargent requested that Sanville help Jim McKinnon set up the music stage and to monitor the door for masks and hand sanitizer. There is a \$3 donation at the door.
- **Pool Cover.** The cover was installed in November by TOH Maintenance Department and with the help of the Highway Department.
- **Hazen Park.** The root cellar at Hazen Park homestead has been shored up with lumber on either side because the walls lacked support. Jim McKinnon did the work, and it was very much appreciated.
- **Red Ribbon Week.** Haverhill Parks & Recreation and the Haverhill Area Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition participated in Red Ribbon week in November with the help of three French Pond students on the Plant-the-Promise campaign. These students planted 100 red tulip bulbs at the Clifford Memorial Building, which will bloom in the spring and serve as a reminder of the importance and beauty of a drug free life. Additionally, it provides a chance for these students to enjoy the outdoors, connect with nature, take a break from daily stress, and see the rewards of something they have nurtured. These bulbs were provided by the North Country Health Consortium and our local Drug-Free Communities Project Coordinator, Mariah Coulstring. Many thanks to Mariah for all she does for community.

New Business

- **New member.** Sargent welcomed Dawn Bureson to the Recreation Commission. Bureson noted that she has participated in some Parks & Recreation events, like Haunted Happenings.
- **Movie Night.** Sargent stated that in October, the members discussed having a Christmas movie night in December. Sargent was looking for volunteers for **Saturday, December 19, at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**. Sargent noted that the cost is about \$225 for the movie license, but the Rec Commission has an anonymous donor for these costs. Christmas movie suggestions for children were Christmas Carol, The Night Before Christmas, and Home Alone. Home Alone was the choice from the members, and Sargent will research further. Sargent noted the audience will be encouraged to bring their own snacks, chairs, and masks.
- **Cookie Decorating Class.** Sanville suggested that there could be a cookie decorating class before Christmas. The instructor would bring all the ingredients and charge \$20 per person. Sargent stated that they could do it if the participants followed COVID guidelines. Sanville will follow up with the instructor.
- **Youth Basketball & Softball Clinics.** Sargent announced that the Basketball and Softball Clinics have been cancelled as of this week. Nothing will be happening at the Morrill Building regarding the Rec Department.

- **Ice Rink.** Sargent announced that the ice rink will be opened next week. The ice rink will be under the lights at the basketball court behind the Morrill Building.

Overview of 2021 Programming

- **Fund Raising.** Sargent stated that the Penny Sale as a fundraiser is not going to be held this year, but the Car Show will go on. Sargent stated that she plans on having the Winter Fest held at the Mt. Lakes Lodge with harbor box races and an obstacle course. In January, Sargent stated she plans on the snowshoe festival at the Stoddard Golf Course at Blackmont Country Club with no set date at this time.
- **Something New: Skateboard Park.** Sargent stated that she is seeking interest in building a skateboard park for the community. She has spoken with a company to get ideas. Sargent recommended three phases of implementation: After the concrete pad of 100' by 60' is built, then, installing a bar, then a half-pipe, and finally a pump track (for bikes or skateboards). Sargent recommended the park be located near the middle school in the area at the end of Industrial Park Road at Airport Road, which is currently owned by the Town. Costs include a rail (\$35,000), a half pipe (\$40,000), and a pump track (\$40,000 to \$60,000). These costs are without the concrete pad costs.

The members discussed designs and fundraising opportunities. Robbins suggested walking paths on perimeter of the park with exercise stations for multigenerational multiuse. Robbins stated that the community could help with building of the park, and this would be well supported because the townspeople are all about recreation.

Robbins complimented Sargent with her work during the pandemic by keeping things going in the Rec Department, which is appreciated by the community. Sargent suggested writing a warrant article for the voters to decide whether or not to reserve capital funds for the park. Sargent suggested a feasibility study. Robbins suggested the area might have topsoil to sell as an income when striped off during site work.

Sargent suggested that 2021 be used as a fundraising year—car shows, music events, and soliciting donations/matches. Members discussed other skateboard parks in the area. Sargent is anticipating opening the pool and summer camp and adding programs, especially at the Clifford Building.

Robbins suggested reopening the Community Garden next year. Sargent agreed because it went so well. Sargent wishes to continue with music events at Railroad Park, the Farmers' Market, and perhaps new events, like a chainsaw carving festival. Sargent requested quotes to replace the signs, and she wishes to clean up the brush and provide water to Railroad Park.

Adjournment:

MOTION #2: Robbins made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Sanville seconded the motion. **Voice vote:** All members stated "Aye." The vote passed unanimously.

Next regular meeting: January 6, 2020

Transcribed by Joanna Bligh