

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

**Wednesday, October 6, 2021
At 7:00 PM**

Commission Members:

Jennifer West, Chair	Dawn Burleson
Sherri Sargent, Recreation Director	Kevin VanNorden
Mona Sanville	Sandi Pierce

Select Board Representative: Steve Robbins

Town Employees Present: None.

Visitors: None.

The meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 7:04 PM by Jennifer West, Chair.

Roll Call Attendance: Jennifer West, Chair; Dawn Burleson; Steve Robbins; Kevin VanNorden; Sherri Sargent, Recreation Director; Mona Sanville (Arrived late); Sandi Pierce (Absent). A quorum was met.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #1: VanNorden made the motion to accept the minutes from **Wednesday, September 1, 2021**, as written, and Robbins seconded the motion.

Voice vote: All members stated “Aye.” The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None.

OLD BUSINESS

Director’s Report

- Sherri Sargent, Director, reported that the Haverhill Parks & Recreation (P&R) Department held its first **Cornhole Tournament** at Railroad Park on September 19 with 14 teams playing, and, as the first tournament of its kind, there were no incidents. Sargent announced that the Select Board voted and authorized a special exception to allow alcohol at Railroad Park Park for this event. Sargent reported that Sanville supervised the event, and Commission members Burleson and West volunteered. As well, Karen Wilson volunteered her time to work the event.

From the success of the event, Sargent announced that Cornhole will now be offered as a regular indoor program through the P&R with Eric Thornton as liaison. Tournament days will vary due to meetings and other programs at the Clifford Memorial Building (CMB), but the schedule will be posted monthly on the Town calendar.

- The **Antique Stroller** walking group continues to be offered Monday through Friday at CMB from 11:00 to 12:00 noon.
- **Pickleball** games continue to do well on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM and Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 at CMB. Sanville oversees the Pickleball program.
- Sargent reported that P&R held an **Open Mic** in September at Railroad Park, which closed out the Summer Park Series with the Parker Hill Road Band. Concessions were not sold at the Open Mic portion, but they were sold by Sanville and West during the Parker Hill Road concert.
- Sargent reported that **Drums Alive** classes have continued at the Horse Meadow Senior Center on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 2:00 under the tent, but the classes may move inside within the next few weeks.
- Sargent announced that **Youth Soccer** is going strong through P&R due to the multiple volunteers who are assisting. Sargent commended many thanks to Ryan Ackerman, Dave Robinson, Ann Loud, and the multiple Woodsville High School soccer team volunteers who help out. Sargent reported that 66 children are registered for Coach Loud's program, and 61 are registered for Coach Ackerman's and Coach Robinson's Wolverines program.

Sargent stated that Covid-19 cases are relatively low in the area, but there was concern as a family in the middle school contracted the virus. Although soccer is played outside, the volunteer coaches are determining if they feel comfortable coaching with or without everyone wearing a mask. Sargent confirmed that everyone is cautious and are watching the Covid-19 numbers in Haverhill. Sargent stated that P&R will provide masks if needed.

- Sargent announced that the **Acoustic Music Jams** continue bimonthly at CMB, and the musicians are all voluntary and enjoy what they do. Sargent continued that with the help and agreement from our liaisons, Jim and Ruth

Strout, the schedule of dates for Acoustic Music Jams has been completed through 2022. Sargent noted that the acoustic music has a huge following.

- Sargent reported that **Movement & Stretch** afternoon classes at CMB have started with a slow start with a low number of attendees.
- Sargent started a new program on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM: **Line Dancing**. Line Dancing and Drums Alive will alternate throughout the fall/winter.
- Sargent reported that **Paddle the Border / Fall** was held on Sunday, October 3, from Newbury Crossing to Bugbee Landing in Bradford, Vt, with a cold rain. Haverhill P&R paid a donation to volunteer bus driver Denise Butson who offered her bus-driving services for this event for many years. Many thanks also to Butler Bus who donates the bus and fuel for the shuttle.

Spring Paddle the Border will be on May 22, 2022.

- Sargent reported that **Teen Night** was held on September 24 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM with 68 students from the Haverhill Cooperative Middle School and French Pond School in attendance. Youths in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades were invited and were all very well behaved. Sargent and Sanville chaperoned the event and, although, these teens were well behaved, more volunteers are needed if we continue to see such large numbers. Sargent noted that the kids played the giant Jenga game, tug-of-war, cards, Uno, and more.

P&R will continue to hold off on Teen Nights and inviting other schools while the watch on the Covid-19 numbers goes on.

Sargent announced the next Teen Night is scheduled for Friday, October 22, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Sargent requested volunteers.

West expressed thanks to Sargent from the French Pond School for inviting them.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Teen Night** / Friday, October 22, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at CMB. Sargent stated that volunteers are needed. West asked if she could ask parents, and Sargent stated anyone can reach out to her by email or Facebook messenger. Sargent would love to have extra help.

2. Haunted Happenings:

The P&R Commission discussed the upcoming Haunted Hazen Park on Saturday, October 30, rain or shine. Sargent announced that prepayment of tickets will go live Friday. It was determined that there will be a less scary wagon ride from 5:00 to 6:00 PM with the haunted ride from 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

West discussed getting pumpkins from Walt Gladstone for the pumpkin carving. Sargent suggested that once the pumpkins are carved, the road to Hazen Park can be lined with the pumpkins. Sargent suggested that the pumpkins be available Monday, carved by the families, and returned to CMB by Thursday night before the event. Sargent asked for West and VanNorden to organize and come up with a date to gather and deliver the pumpkins – Monday, October 25, at Woodsville Elementary School and Tuesday, October 26, at CMS. Robbins suggested having a trailer of pumpkins at the schools and other locations.

Sargent stated that Hazen Park needs to be mowed and put on a regular schedule for next year, and trees are down and need to be cleared up.

Sargent noted that she and some seniors are working on props, so any help is appreciated. Sargent is also looking for volunteer actors to enhance the haunted ride. Sargent stated that there will be a bonfire and other small fires near each actor.

Robbins contacted the Fire Chief for confirmation of having open fires for the Halloween event.

Sargent stated she will notify the members of a date a few days before the event to meet at Hazen Park to go over the logistics of the Halloween event.

3. Cold Turkey Plunge

Sargent noted that this year is the 5th anniversary of the Cold Turkey Plunge. Sargent stated she will drop forms off at the schools and elsewhere and try to raise some money. Sargent asked the members to save the date of **Sunday, November 21**, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Sargent asked for volunteers from the Commission to participate. Sargent stated that the event is held at the Mt. Lakes Beach with the plunge at 1:00 PM sharp. Donations are \$50 for adults and \$35 for children, food is provided before the plunge, and T shirts or blankets are given out. For the volunteers, Sargent stated, the event lasts just a few hours.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 7:00 PM.

Sargent asked the members if the 7:00 PM change of time for the meeting is OK. All confirmed.

ADJOURN

MOTION #2: Sanville made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM,

VanNorden seconded the motion.

Voice vote: All members stated “Aye.” The vote passed unanimously.

Transcribed by Joanna Bligh.