

Town of Newington, NH
Newington Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at the Langdon Library

Meeting started at 5:10 pm

Present: Rebecca Navelski, Bill Wright, Brian Haberstroh, Martin Callahan, Jillian Semprini

Minutes Approval:

Rebecca N. moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2022. Bill W. seconded the motion.
All in favor.

Budget Committee Public Hearing:

- Jack O'Reilly was on the phone for this portion of the meeting.
- The Budget Committee was generally in favor of the Recreation Committee Director; however, they are concerned that the budget proposed is not enough. The Recreation Committee explained that this is proposed as a seasonal position for now.
- Both Recreation Committee warrants passed unanimously.
- Zipline:
 - Jessica Morgan attended the meeting to discuss how to proceed with the zipline warrant article.
 - The Budget Committee wasn't opposed to the zipline but asked if the cost for the zipline could be taken out of the Recreation Committee's Capital Reserve Fund. The Recreation Committee prefers to keep the zipline as a separate article because the Capital Reserve Fund will be utilized in the future for maintenance of tennis courts, ball fields, etc.
 - The Recreation Committee discussed two options on how to proceed with the zipline warrant article if it is not passed:
 - Amend the warrant article to decrease the amount, with the intent of submitting another warrant article for the remainder of the amount the following year.
 - Amend the Recreation Committee warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund to include the cost of the zipline.
 - Jack O. noted that warrant articles can be amended on the spot at the Town Meeting.
 - The Recreation Committee thanks Jessica for her efforts in continuing to improve the playground at the Old Town Hall.

Ice Rink:

- Pete Latchaw, Principal at the Newington Public School (NPS), attended the meeting.
 - It was brought to the attention of the Recreation Committee that a resident was told by Pete that they could not use the ice rink during school hours.
 - Pete noted that the NH RSAs states only students and staff are allowed on school property.
 - RSA Chapter 193-D defines school property has all real property, physical plant and equipment used for school purposes, including but not limited to school playgrounds and buses, whether public or private.

- Pete has been assuming school grounds at NPS to be all Town property surrounding the school
- Pete noted that it is a huge safety factor allowing anyone other than students or staff to use the ice rink during school hours; he doesn't have the personnel to monitor the entire town property area surrounding the school.
- There are currently no physical or other boundaries that identify "school grounds". Ideas discussed included putting a 6' tall chain link fence separating the school from the ice rink, and relocating the ice rink entirely or simply posting signs on the southern boundary of the school to alert non-school personnel of the school grounds restricted area
- The Recreation Committee recognizes that the ice rink is for Town use; however, understands Pete's position regarding safety. The committee supports not allowing people other than students/staff on the ice rink during school hours.
- The Recreation Committee asked Pete to work with the Recreation Committee and the town to put up signs to delineate school grounds.
- Pete indicated he would report back to the School Board for further input
- Bill Wright, Police Commissioner, stated the NPD is not up to speed on their role enforcing access to school grounds and wants to be updated as this issue is worked out with all interested parties
- The Committee discussed liability related to the ice rink if it is unclear if the rink is on school grounds or town property.
- The Recreation Committee maintains and supervises, with limited input from the Newington Public School, the upkeep of the playground, the ball fields, ice rink, tennis courts, etc. within the town property abutting the school. The Recreation Committee plans to further discuss the budget and areas of responsibility once this issue is resolved
- Chris Wayss attended the meeting.
 - Chris prepared a banner with ice rink rules; the banner is 3' wide by 5' tall and costs \$70
 - Mice are back in the shed likely due to the trash being left there; the Recreation Committee suggested adding a "Carry In, Carry Out" sign.
 - Chris has asked for a latch to the shed to prevent the door from blowing open in storms; snow has been getting into the shed.

Rebecca N. moved to approve the purchase of the banner. Jill S. seconded the motion. All in favor.

Other:

- Rebecca will be setting up an email address for the Recreation Committee so that residents can contact the committee via email with concerns and/or suggestions.
- Camp Newington: 9-week camp was suggested.
- Egg Hunt: will be held on Saturday April 9 with a rain date of Sunday April 10.
- Rebecca will be sending out a mailer with the Egg Hunt information and to gather feedback on Camp Newington interest.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 5:00 PM at the Langdon Library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Semprini