

**Town of Newington, NH**  
**Newington Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 19, 2021 at the Town Hall**

Meeting started at 7:00 pm

**Present:** Laura Stone, Rebecca Navelski, Dana Nowell, Bill Wright, Bill Blatt, Jarrad Savinelli, Brian Haberstroh, Jillian Semprini

**Business:**

- Jillian Semprini volunteered to be Secretary to the Committee
- Bill Blatt volunteered to be Treasurer to the Committee

**Camp Newington:**

- Camp Newington has been run by the YMCA in previous years but is unable to run the camp this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The YMCA has offered the following to residents of Newington for Camp Gundalow:
  - Early bird registration beginning in April
  - Waive \$30 registration fee
  - Cost is \$1,140 for 5 weeks or \$1,368 for 6 weeks
- Brian H. noted that the Recreation Committee was not favor in years-past of Camp Gundalow for the following reasons:
  - A bus is required to transport the campers from Newington to the camp and from the camp to Newington, which means there are specific times for drop-off and pick up. Camp Newington historically has been flexible with drop-off and pick-up times.
  - There is less safety control at Camp Gundalow; there is more control with Camp Newington being in Town and with less campers
- Rebecca N. and Laura S. met with the Board of Selectmen, and they have approved Camp Newington being run by the Recreation Committee this year
  - The Selectboard has approved the budget for Camp Newington in the amount of \$34,500 with \$9,825 remaining in the Capital Reserve. This is based on an 8 week camp schedule.
  - Cost for residents would be \$700, and out-of-Town cost is \$1,100

**Brian H. moved to run Camp Newington this year. Jarrad S. seconded the motion. All in favor.**

- Committee discussed staffing:
  - One director and four camp counselors will be hired
  - Legally need to post job descriptions; job descriptions have been provided by the YMCA and will be modified for Camp Newington
  - Interviews for staff positions will be held by Town Officials, Public Safety and members of the Recreation Committee
- Committee discussed activities:
  - Legally cannot do field trips due to buses and the pandemic
  - Can bring in events, such as bouncy house, farm animals, magician, storyteller, etc.

- Can pick days where parents drop-off / pick-up campers at a specific location (ex. beach); campers would be required to be at the specific location all day
- Director will ultimately be responsible for day-to-day activities with ideas and assistance from the Recreation Committee
- Committee discussed COVID protocols:
  - Will use protocols from Camp Gundalow and Camp Lincoln, and modify for Camp Newington
  - The campers will need to maintain 3' of social distance with masks on
  - For inside days (ex. rainy days), the campers will be broken into smaller groups, and alternate between the upstairs and downstairs of the Old Town Hall
- Committee discussed ratios:
  - The maximum campers allowed is 32, which exceeds the ratio required by the state with four counselors and one director
- Committee discussed Schedule and Dates:
  - The 20-21 school year ends June 11, 2021 and the 21-22 school year begins September 7, 2021
  - Historically the camp has began 1 week after the end of school and ended 1 week prior to school beginning; with the current start/end dates of school this schedule would provide 10 weeks of camp
  - Camp Newington can be budgeted for 9 weeks with remaining funds in the Capital Reserve

**Laura S. moved to run Camp Newington for 9 weeks. Dana N. seconded the motion. All in favor.**

- Camp Newington will run for 9 weeks starting on June 21, 2021 to August 20, 2021; which begins 1 week after school ends and ends 2 weeks prior to the new school year.
  - UNH start date is August 30, 2021
- Laura S. and Rebecca N. noted:
  - Martha Roy, Town Administrator, will be checking the condition of the picnic tables before the start of camp
  - The road crew will be installing the air conditions in the Old Town Hall
  - A second porta-potty will be added
- Committee discussed staff rates.

**Bill W. moved to set the Camp Counselor rate of pay between \$12-\$15/hr and the Camp Director rate of pay between \$20-\$25/hr. Brian H. seconded the motion. All in favor.**

#### **Septemberfest:**

- Septemberfest has been scheduled for September 18, 2021
  - Air show is September 11, 2021
  - Road Race is September 25, 2021

- Action Items:
  - Jarrad S. noted that the Tony Mack Band has been scheduled, and that a (movable) stage will need to be built that will ultimately be the property of the Recreation Committee
  - The Committee noted that Martin Callahan is no longer part of the Recreation Committee but is still willing to help with Septemberfest, and will arrange the climbing wall, pony rides, bouncy houses, and tents
  - There will be food this year
    - Rebecca N. noted that the Texas Roadhouse has offered to cater the event.
    - The grills need to be checked; one grill wasn't working properly at the last event

#### **Tennis Court Maintenance:**

- Bill W. drafted an RFP and sent to Martha, but it has not been posted yet
- Brian H. noted that Advantage Tennis, from Vermont, used to maintain the courts
  - The Committee noted that Advantage Tennis hasn't maintained the courts within the last five years
- Brian H. will send Bill W. a list of previous maintenance contacts
- Committee discussed the two trees that are proposed to be removed adjacent to the court:
  - The roots of the trees are likely to grow under the courts and would cause damage that would be expensive to repair
  - The limbs continue to grow over the fence which has damaged the fence in the past. Additional cost will be borne by the town to continue to trim the limbs.
  - The Board of Selectmen has a town-wide budget for tree removal, which would include the 2 subject trees
  - The Committee recommended securing a statement from a tennis court maintenance contractor that recommends the 2 trees adjacent to the court should be removed due to the close proximity to the courts, over-crowding of the 15+ trees in the area and potential for root encroachment damaging the courts. The contractor bid should include the cost for the removal of the trees.

#### **Review of Egg Hunt**

- Rebecca N. noted that the only feedback she received is that there was a time misprint on Facebook, and she was asked when the Recreation Committee met to decide on the egg hunt
- Laura S. noted there was a great turn out
  - Brian H. suggested having a head count in the future to note in the meeting minutes for comparison between years and for budgeting purposes

#### **Movies at Fox Point**

- Laura S. noted that the idea for Thursday night movies at Fox Point was brought to the Board of Selectmen, and they will be voting on it at their next meeting
- The schedule will be discussed at a future Recreation Committee meeting regarding responsibility of committee members
- The library has volunteered their projects/AV equipment and movie screen

### **Disc Golf**

- Brian H. noted that a resident spoke to him regarding donating (mountable) disc golf; including installation of the 9 baskets
- Committee discussed potential locations for disc golf:
  - Fox Point
  - Town-owned laned near Old Post Rd and Fox Point intersection
  - Old Town Hall
  - Carriage House
  - School

**Laura S. moved to install Disc Golf at the Old Town Hall. Bill B. seconded the motion. All in favor.**

### **Ice Rink**

- Rebecca N. thanks Brian H. for his dedication to the ice rink; installing, maintaining, and removing it
- Brian H. gave thanks to Chris Wayss for assisting in maintaining the ice rink
- Laura S. noted that the Recreation Committee may be able to hold a Winterfest this year at the ice rink
- Brian H. suggested the Recreation Committee start thinking about budgeting for a small pavilion to extend over the ice rink
  - This would be a long-term goal

**Next meeting Monday, May 3, 2021, 7:00 PM at the Town Hall**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Semprini