

Westford Recreation Committee Meeting

February 7, 2023 7pm at the Town Office with Zoom option:

Minutes

Present

Members: Amanda Gifford, Lori Miller, George Elliott, Deanna Norton, Maria Olsen, Ben McElvaney, Chuck Medick

Guests: Benjamin Borenstein

1. Review January Meeting Minutes: Minutes are approved.
2. Changes to Agenda: No changes to the agenda.
3. Schedule Next Meeting: tentatively March 7, 2023
4. Public Comment: Ben Borenstein - Ben made a proposal, which was approved, for ARPA funds for First Responder training for Westford H.S. students. The course starts Sunday, Feb. 12 and is for any H.S. student 15 and older. The class is from 12:15 - 2:45 and will meet at the Westford library for 10 weeks. Ben is hoping that students can get first level certification and then they can possibly get internships with Fairfax rescue. Cathy Yokum is the EMT director from Fairfax who will do the training.

Ben's number is 240-506-2486 in case we know of anyone who is interested in the training.

Discussion:

5. Open Board Seats - allow Maureen to step down? Becky Roy is potentially, maybe interested. Becky had a conflict tonight, but she sounds interested. Maureen can step down. Chuck has tentatively put in his resignation from the board as well.

6. Finances

- Monthly Report: Ben got an official report in a good format that is easier to read. Ben mentioned that receipts from Amanda can go into the receipt folder. The rec salary, which had erroneously been taken out of our budget, got fixed.
- Status on Invoices, payments, etc.: Finances are doing well.
- Miscellaneous expense and income category: \$576.00 for First Aid kits. We need to figure out what that is for and if there is a receipt. That seems like too much money for just first aid kits. There is also the question of the "Miscellaneous Expense" for \$779.46, if Amanda can check in on that as well.

7. Rink communication about it and guidelines: Amanda has been posting open or closed on the FB account. Lori checks the ice every day and will communicate with Amanda if the status of the ice changes.

- There should be a link to our calendar that we should keep updated so that people can have current information.
- It would be super helpful to have a "rinkmaster". Dave maintained the rink before and he lived right next door. It's very difficult to maintain the rink with current weather conditions. We also need community help because it's too much work for just the Rec committee.

8. Upcoming Programs & Events:

- Gentle Yoga - Erin Menut: Erin had 2 registrants, but that time of day is difficult for some people.
- Lego workshop: There are 9 registrants, so we made the cutoff. Deanna will be helping George
- Broomball Tournament: We have communicated with Louie. Broomball will go on under most conditions unless the rink is a pool. We will have to determine whether the tournament will happen closer to the day.
 - We should re-post the tournament on FPF.
- Slime to be rescheduled - costs for materials? George had to buy mason jars and saline solution. Amanda will give Ben the receipt so that she can get reimbursed since she paid for it herself.

9. Activity suggestions from community: Amanda can let people know that we have good suggestions from the community but we need more community members to volunteer and help out. The Committee will advertise that we are willing to run these programs if the public volunteers to guide them.

- Youth/teen ski/ride: We can't do it for this season, but it's a good idea to look at for next season. Can Amanda contact Essex Rec and see what they do to get more information. Maybe we can piggy-back on their program?
- Adult get together art and craft space: We (Rec) could let the community know that we have access to the RBMH. If someone wants to create that "space" they could let us know and they can propose the program through us.
- Pre-K open gym at Westford school during winter months to get the toddler/preschooler energy out! Space to run and play with inflatable bouncy house, balls, byo tricycle, etc.
- Is there an interest in having yoga available for adults either early mornings or evenings? I know that I can't take time to attend during the daytimes as currently offered.
- Would you be doing any more paint and sips? Or maybe adult/child paint and sips.
- What about (bi-) monthly game nights for adults? Several years ago I had put together women's game nights at the library on Friday evenings. It was great to get out with other adults and play fun games (i.e. not particular rules) and to leave the kids to home.
- A few years ago I took part in a moonlight "dinner" snowshoe/walk in Colchester. There were different stations to walk/hike/snowshoe with the different parts of the "meal." This included station 1) appetizers which were cheese and crackers 2) soup and/or salad 3.) hot dogs/hamburgers 4.) dessert of s'mores . "Just sayin" Dan Strobridge seems to really want people to enjoy his land so I wonder whether working with him on this might be a possibility or maybe a walk around the community might work. This could be done in the winter/summer/fall and all ages.
- Dance classes for elementary students lead by a community member.

10. VRPA membership - Is this something WRD would like to pursue/continue? Vermont Recreation and Parks Association. We had a membership in the past. Amanda will look into that and see what we would get from the membership and how much it costs.

11. Misc