**Town of Westborough Recreation Department**

**Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes –September 17th**

Members Present: Recreation Commission Chair Earl Storey, Beth Travis, Colleen Dowd, Bill Clausen, Brian Kane and Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland

**Summer Recap**

Jenn brought the commission up to speed on how the summer went. Jenn recapped the summer playground program, which was changed from half day to full day for the first time. Jenn explained that there were some challenges but overall it was a successful program and we will continue to offer a full day option for Westborough families. Summer sports clinics all went off smoothly as well along with a new tennis program run by the varsity boys and girls tennis coaches. We also brought back our summer field hockey camp which hadn’t run in a few years. There were about 20 girls registered for the week long program.

**Fall Winter Programming**

The fall and winter brochure was published and mailed at the end of August. We are offering many of the same, popular programs like Young Rembrandts, STEM and Video Game design. The winter also brings basketball season, which is a huge program that we run for grades pre –k – grade 12. We are working on booking gyms and securing volunteer coaches.

Colleen Dowd mentioned that she had been told that many families are getting multiple copies of our brochure. She suggested that we look into “house holding” which combines duplicate households, a very common practice for printers. This could save money when it comes to postage and printing.

**Beach Update**

Jenn updated the commission on the Algae that shut down the beach season early. Blue Green Algae is a toxic algae and it was found at the end of July. When Blue Green Algae is found there isn’t anything you can do to get rid of it. Jenn explained that the Board of Health was essential during this time, and the Board of Health helped her to navigate this situation. The state came in and did testing, and we were able to open for one week towards the end of the season but it was a hard sell to get people back to the beach after we had to close because of this. The last session of swim lessons was cancelled due to this. Jenn commended the lifeguard staff on how flexible and understanding they were when it came to the decision to close due to the algae. Prior to the algae bloom the beach was having an incredibly good season. With swim lessons filling with waitlists to record daily sales for day passes and beach passes.

**Fields/Facilities**

*Rogers –* Earl is going to be doing some work on the front field at Rogers to help with some of the flooding that occurs. It is not a cure all but it should help make the front field more playable after rain.

Hastings – Little League is very interested in rehabbing the Hastings ball fields. Earl and Jenn met with the Little League president, Bob Ferguson (school building and grounds, and Johanna (Westborough Athletic Director). Jenn does not feel that the town needs any more fields to be responsible for, we have what we need for our programs. She explained that she was all for Little League doing something on their own. Earl concurred with this opinion. Jenn also explained that Little League did ask if Rec could contribute something to the renovation – weather that be, money, equipment, or something else to help. Next meeting a vote on what we can do to help will be on the agenda

*Pickle ball Courts –* The pickle ball courts on Lyman Street are complete and have been very heavily used since they have been completed.

Haskell Basketball Courts – We resurfaced the outdoor basketball courts this summer, as it was long overdue.

*Haskell Playground Project -* Work to replace the woodchips at Haskell with poured in place rubber was completed this summer. Seems the response to the project has been very positive. Jenn is going to look into doing Rogers playground next.

Jenn discussed possible next projects including a splash pad, dog park, and new neighborhood playground. Jenn mentioned that she wanted to do some type of community survey or hearing to get a sense of what the public was looking for in terms of recreational facilities. Andrew Bradley offered the idea of having a poll done at town meeting, we discussed the concern of there not being enough people in attendance at the time of the poll to get “real” results. Jenn said she would discuss with the Board of Health director as he had done something similar at spring town meeting.

**Fall Town Meeting**

Recreation will be on the warrant for Fall Town Meeting. We need to get permission from town meeting to build on an M-1 zone. The Conservation Department and Planning Department have helped with this article. Once this is approved we can begin the process of building a pavilion at the new pickle ball site, as the site currently has no shaded area.

**Revolving Account Balance**

 With the completion of all of our projects this summer on top of all of the other major expenses like seasonal salaries, our Revolving account took a more significant hit this summer. We still have over 100k in our account and with fall and winter program registrations starting will be in good shape.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenn Kirkland