**Town of Westborough Recreation Department**

**Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes – March 9th, 2021**

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

The Recreation Commission Meeting opened with Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland reading the Governor Baker statement suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law.

**Beach Discussion/Potential Vote**

Nothing is set in stone as a plan for the summer of 2021, however Jenn Kirkland wanted to give the Commission an update as to where things were currently.

One of the plans for the beach was taken from Wellesley, and other towns with beaches were successful with this plan as well. Instead of having lifeguards, ‘park rangers’ would be the seasonal staff working at the beach. They would not be lifeguards, but would be in charge of enforcing COVID Protocols, rules and regulations, cleaning bathrooms, acting as parking attendants, and general upkeep of the beach area. There would be 3-4 rangers per shift, and the beach would be open 10am-4pm as hours.

The public would be able to buy 2 hour passes to park, with some time in between blocks for the rangers to clean the space. There would be limits for the crowds, so 20 families would be the cap at a given time.

Potential issues with this plan were discussed, including the issue with charging for parking in the lot that would be shared with the pickleball courts. There would be spots reserved separately for beach use compared to the pickleball courts to help with this issue. There is also no internet at the beach, so getting rosters over to the rangers could be difficult logistically.

Another thing mentioned was the budget for this program, which is mostly revolving around payroll for the staff. There would be similar losses compared with running the beach normally.

The Recreation Department is currently looking to hire a new waterfront director as well as accepting lifeguard applications in case the beach is open as it was before the summer of 2020.

Earl Storey also mentioned typical beach prep with adding and moving around sand on the beach area to prevent it from feeling like its gravel instead of sand when you’re walking. In addition to this, it was mentioned how popular the beach was to use last year. It wasn’t as busy as it was in a typical year, but people were still using the beach when it was closed.

Jenn’s financial outlook did not include the kayak rentals that have been done in the past, or swim lessons. The commission recommended reaching out to places that are currently running swim lessons, such as Westborough Tennis & Swim to see what practices they have in place to be able to run those safely.

This topic will be discussed again in a future commission meeting.

**Next Meeting**

Jenn Kirkland gave the commission a reminder that there will be another meeting in early April. There was a motion to adjourn from Earl Storey, which Colleen Dowd seconded. The meeting was adjourned.