**Town of Westborough Recreation Department**

**Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes – June 2nd, 2021**

Members Present: Recreation Commission Chair Earl Storey, Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland, Beth Travis, Bill Clausen, Colleen Dowd, non-voting member Katie Welch, and Select Board representative Ian Johnson.

The meeting started with Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland reading Governor Baker’s statement regarding Open Meeting Law.

**Pro Shop Update – Rec Director/Golf Manager**There was an initial discussion about the availability of alcohol sales at the golf course. Mike Hightower noted that there would not be any issues with course maintenance. The Civic being one of the options is that they would maintain their current hours, which would limit availability at certain times of the day. Groton has a similar set up to what the course in Westborough would have, and they have not had any issues. Municipalities can apply to the state for a license, but just one in the state has been approved.

The course is now fully staffed, and Jack has given positive reviews for the seasonal staff. The golf course manager position has been posted in as many places as possible. There was some discussion about the reasons for difficulty filling the position, including the course being a 9-hole course, and wanted to get teaching money on top of the salary. Ian mentioned that a hire was possible in the past round of interviews, but that we are looking to find a good fit. Some changes are waiting for the new pro in terms of adjusting the pro shop set up and sales.

**Superintendent Update – Mike Hightower**Mike Hightower mentioned that the course is in good shape, but there has been some difficulty this season. The irrigation pumping system needs some work done, but figuring out how to get the work done within the budget will take some thought. Aeration for the greens has been delayed due to the temperature. This has led the greens to be slower and bumpier than ideal, but they should be ok in a couple weeks.

The irrigation system more or less failed, but is now back to about 80% of its usual capacity. The pump is on the fritz, and as such, we are holding off on the new gas tank to make sure there is enough money to get the pump through the season. Irrigation was in the capital plan for 2023 with hopes it could last that long, so it was on the radar as an upcoming expense.

**Tim Breen Presentation – Bill Clausen**Bill Clausen introduced Tim Breen, a 9th grade student on the St. Johns golf team from Westborough. He is an avid golfer, and estimates playing at the Westborough course 6 times per week. In PGA 2k21, he has completely recreated the course. Tim showed some of the slides he made with pictures of his recreation of the course down to the cart barn next to the parking lot. He estimated that it took about 10 hours to make it, and thinks he can continue to improve its quality. In order to find it, searching Westborough GC in the search would have it show.

Mike Hightower and Ian Johnson left the meeting after the golf course business was finished.

**Emails/Info in Different Languages – Colleen Dowd**Colleen Dowd mentioned the possibility of providing Recreation Department emails and information in different languages. Newsletters from the schools are going out in different languages, and she wanted to broach this topic as something to think about. Youth and Family services has a translating company that they use, so Jenn mentioned reaching out for their input.

**Lake Chauncy day pass price. Discussion and Vote – Recreation Director**The beach is going to be open this summer, with most transactions being online to try to minimize transactions at the gate. Due to the credit card processing fee, the possibility of raising the day-passes by 50 cents was brought up to offset those costs. Even if people want to buy at the gate, the Waterfront Director is going to direct people to purchase the passes via their smartphone. She didn’t take any cash where she worked last year and it worked fine.

Beth Travis made a motion to increase the day pass fees to $3.50, Bill Clausen seconded it. The vote passed 4-0.

Jenn is also going to make a QR code for a link to the page to buy the passes. The new Waterfront Director has experience managing staff, and has hit the ground running making tweaks to the beach handbook.

**Summer Programs Update – Recreation Director/Program Coordinator/Admin**The summer is off to a great start with program registration numbers, and staff for the summer have been hired. 507 kids are registered for sports clinics, and 355 have registered for playground programs. Outdoor Adventure also has had strong registration numbers.

**Fields/Facilities Update – Earl Storey**Earl did not note anything at most of the facilities. The Hennessey Cricket pitch does have an area where they bat starting to tear. Fixing this will be expensive to replace the whole turf, so there is going to be some back and forth to figure out the best way to proceed. With so many different group using the turf, moving the area that they bat and pitch from would spread out the wear and tear.

**Approve Minutes from April and May**Colleen Dowd made a motion to approve the minutes from the April and May meetings. Brian Kane seconded. The vote passed 4-0.

**Next Meeting/Discussion about In Person Meetings**As of June 15th, meetings will need to meet in person. A tentative next meeting date was set for July 6th.

**Adjourn**
The meeting was adjourned.