

Newport Parks and Recreation
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Recreation Committee
October 17, 2019 | 6:00 PM

Present at Meeting: Deb Smith, Jennifer Smith, Shari-Lee Ryan, AJ Thurston, Marin Gardyne, Vaughn Cloney and Mike Nolan

Absent: David Jankowski, Jaime Comtois and Maggie Brown

Guest: Jessica Booth, Laura Smith, Amy Pickering and Lori Wells

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:25 by Jennifer Smith, following the Vermont Land Trust Bluffside Farm presentation/update.

I. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, corrections suggested to fix the spelling of Jaime Comtois name and adding Maggie Brown to the absent list. A motion was made by Jenn Smith to accept minutes 1st by Shari-lee Ryan, 2nd by Vaughn Cloney.

II. Public Comment

No comments

III. Consideration of Open Issues

1. Fundraising update:

- Coin Drop - \$2072.33
- Bottle Drive - \$98.12
- Hydration Station - \$128.76
- NBRC Throwdown - \$125.00

2. Program & Event Debriefing:

- Chilifest Hydration - Successful, next year put our station next to the fire station chili station
- Throwdown - Successful, better marketing next year to include Canada and Craftsbury running clubs

- Coin drop - Successful, each shift brings a new bucket to put coins into to keep the weight down, keep bills separate from the coins. Make sure we get the letter submitted early to participate in the Derby coin drop.

3. Program & Event Planning Discussion:

- New Year's Eve Dance - After a round robin of discussion a motion was made by Jenn Smith to push back the adult dance from New Years and consider an "adult prom" theme for the winter/spring. Vaughn Cloney was 1st to approve and 2nd by Shari-lee Ryan followed by a unanimous committee vote.
- Side by side raffle/calcutta - A suggestion by Jessica Booth that we look into raffling off a new side by side ATV like the fire department does with their lawnmower raffle, the recreation department will reach out to local businesses about the cost to see if this is a feasible fundraiser.

4. Fundraising Projects:

- 21 Sponsorship packets have been mailed out to corporate sponsors including an invite to the Gardner Park launch event on November 8th.
- New renderings by Elizebeth Howell were shown, parking options were discussed in detail. The committee would like to see parking along the road by the playground addressed or eliminated due to safety concerns.
- Shari also mention that she had been asked by a handful of people if we were going to keep the hook/ladder structure. The structure will be kept and get a new face lift.

5. Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- Monster Bash is scheduled for October 26th, three volunteers needed. Marin Gardyne, Mike Nolan and Vaughn Clooney will be the Monster Bash costume judges. Please pick up your wonderful sashes and handouts in the gym at 12:30PM. Any questions give Laura Smith a call. We are also looking for 20/30 volunteers for the games, Amy Pickering will check with the students at the high school.

6. Other business:

- We have one open seat on our board, both Amy Pickering and Lori Wells have submitted letters of interest. Members are appointed by the City Council, the committee will make a recommendation in time for the November 4 meeting.
- Marin Gardyne has expressed interest in stepping down as vice chair, into a regular committee member role due to limited availability. A motion was made by Jenn Smith to nominate Jaime Comtois as the new vice chair, Shari-lee Ryan was 1st to acknowledge and AJ Thurston 2nd it. A vote was cast, all members voted yay.

- The Parks & Recreation office brought feedback from a community member that there was interest in seeing our agendas posted in more places and more than 48 hours in advance (as required). We will work to do so in hopes of stirring up more public involvement, and will add both Jim Johnson and Becky Therrian to our email list.
- Jenn asked for help running our facebook page, she will send out another friend request to the committee members. It's important for us to share information and photos of our events.
- The Recreation Committee discussed the upcoming ATV on public roads ordinance vote. The positive benefits were discussed including economic opportunities as well as safety concerns. While the committee didn't have a unanimous position on the matter, there was consensus that it would be fitting for the Recreation Committee or Parks & Recreation department to host ATV safety or training courses to the community as a way to alleviate concerns and be proactive in helping the community acclimate should the roads be opened.

7. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10, next meeting November 21st @6:00.