

# Fitzwilliam Recreation Commission October Meeting Minutes

10/6/2020

Members Present: Lyndsey LePage, Sarah Short, Jennifer Cesaitis, Patrick Boudette

Mrs. Royce called the meeting to Order at 7:05PM.

## **Soccer Update**

Mrs. Royce reported that with two weeks left of the Program, there were 39 registered participants

Revenue: \$655 gross; \$553.52 net which will cover cost of \$500 Coordinator Stipend.

Feedback has been very positive with the Skills & Drills format.

## **Take-A-Hike Challenge**

Mrs. Royce reported that the TAH Challenge ended 10/3; there were 55 registered participants, and that 101.6 miles had been cumulatively hiked between participants.

Engagement for the Program was low however the Commission was encouraged that being the first annual challenge, we did have good representation from all segments, notably Adults & Seniors.

Mrs. Cesaitis suggested that the 2021 TAH Program could span a wider time frame to encourage more people to actively participate. The Commission discussed and agreed that we will plan to run the Program again in 2021 beginning in Spring through Fall.

## **Litter Cleanup**

Mrs. Royce reported that the Community Litter Cleanup is scheduled for October 9 -13. Promotion of the Effort will be posted on Facebook via the Recreation Page as well as the Fitzwilliam Community Page. Additionally, a reference will be made in the Soccer email blast sent this week and blue bags will be available for pickup at Soccer.

Additionally, a self-serve bag station will be setup on the Town Hall steps Friday through Sunday, where volunteers can sign up for a stretch of road.

The Highway Dept. has been contacted and has agreed to pickup the blue bags beginning 10/14. Mrs. Royce will provide them a list of roads volunteers signed up for.

## **Halloween**

Mrs. Royce reported that the BOS had concerns re: trick-or treating this year due to COVID-19 and they were interested in what the Commission might have for alternative plans/options.

Mrs. Short shared that an informal poll of homeowners around the Common revealed that there is concern over handing out candy. Many of the homeowners around the Common, where the majority of trick or treating occurs, are Seniors and they are concerned with large groups of people approaching without masks.

Mrs. Royce shared information from a webinar hosted by the State regarding what was shared about what other towns in NH are doing: one is hosting a trunk or treat, another is hosting a contest for whomever comes up with the most creative way to give candy while maintaining 6' social distance. The Governor's Office released a flyer outlining suggestions for staying safe while trick or treating this year.

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After much discussion, the Commission decided that since we don't generally get involved in Halloween, we would not this year. The Commission feels that it is best for each individual family to make their own decision regarding whether or not to trick or treat and would recommend to the BOS to publish/distribute the flyer from the Governor's Office along with recommendations such being respectful of your neighbors and only visiting homes who have a light on and wearing masks while trick or treating.

Mrs. Royce will communicate the Commission's decision and thoughts to the BOS at 10/7 BOS Meeting.

## **Fall/Winter Programming**

### *Basketball*

Mrs. Royce asked for thoughts regarding an Outdoor Basketball Program this year due to the fact that we may not have access to the Emerson School gym if the Hybrid model continues. Mr. Boudette suggested that due to the temperatures, if we were to run an outdoor program, we'd need to consider some outdoor heaters. After discussion, the Commission decided that an Outdoor Program would not be feasible and we would only offer the Basketball Program if we have access to the Emerson School gym.

### *Light Up The Night*

Mrs. Royce shared the "Southern NH Tour of Lights" flyer and discussed logistics of the Competition. Participants would need to register by 12/6 and homes would be judged 12/11. Viewing would take place 12/11-27.

Mrs. Royce will present to the BOS at the 10/7 BOS Meeting.

### *Ice Skating*

The Commission discussed the plan to setup the ice rink at the Pole Barn this Winter as well as the need to ask for volunteers to clear the ice weekly so that one person isn't in charge of removal all winter.

### *Safe @ Home & Safe Sitter Courses*

Mrs. Royce suggested to the Commission that we consider offering a Safe @ Home Course given that there are presumably more kids staying at home alone with the current school scheduling. This particular course would be for kids in Grades 4-6 . The cost is \$10/child which includes a workbook as well as a facilitator's guide. The idea of the program is to prepare children for staying home alone, what to do in case of an emergency and general safety precautions.

After some discussion, Mrs. LePage suggested that we hold off on offering the program due to concerns over social distancing and holding a program indoors. Mrs. Cesaitis suggested looking into how this program could be offered virtually.

Mr. Boudette suggested that in the future we consider getting someone certified to teach the Safe Sitter course as we could then offer it to other towns and create a revenue stream for the program.

Mrs. Royce will research options for offering Safe @ Home, virtually.

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## **Spring Programming**

### *Recreation Field Cleanup*

Mrs. Royce suggested that in the Spring of 2021, the Commission, along with Community Volunteers, cleanup the Recreation field; particularly the substantial overgrowth along the fences. Mr. Boudette commented on the unevenness of the field itself and asked when the last time the field had been leveled. He cited that there are substantial enough holes/unevenness that kids could get hurt. Mrs. Royce shared that this had been discussion with Soccer Coordinator, Jen Fritz as well and that Mrs. Royce would be in touch with John Holman to get an estimate on leveling the field.

### *TBall/Baseball*

The Commission agrees that we will plan to offer a TBall/Baseball program in the Spring. The polling of residents in Spring 2020 revealed that there is interest in a recreational, local program.

Mr. Boudette offered that he would be interested to find out if there's enough interest for a recreation slow pitch softball league for adults in town. We would need 9-12 players/team and could potentially play other towns.

The Commission agreed that this would be great to offer if there's interest.

Mrs. Royce will create a survey to determine the level of interest.

## **Constant Contact Subscription Upgrade**

Mrs. Royce reported that the current Constant Contact subscription does not allow for automated emails to be sent after registration for a program is completed. Currently, she has to manually enter registrants to their respective email list in order for them to receive pertinent communications. An automated response would ensure that information is sent in a timely manner, regardless of when the registration is completed.

Mrs. Cesaitis made a motion to upgrade the current Constant Contact account from the \$20/mo. Subscription to the \$45/mo. Subscription to allow for email automation. Mrs. LePage seconded. Motion approved.

## **Robyn Andersen Resignation**

Mrs. Royce notified the Commission the Mrs. Andersen has resigned from the Commission, effective immediately. Mrs. Anderson wishes to remain an active volunteer with the Commission however cannot continue to serve as a Commission Member.

The Commission will need to identify another member and could consider someone who represents a segment for which we don't currently have representation for (parent of teenagers, Senior, etc.)

Ideas will be discussed at the November meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:15PM.**