

## RECREATION COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY MARCH 13, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cindi Beede, Sheena Royce, Terri Robbitts, Bonnie Jones, Bruce Lafond, and Catie Bisson. Christi Filipi arrived at 7:20.

Mrs. Robbitts convened the meeting at 7:05pm

1. Ski Hill: Greg Mattson attended the meeting and proposed haying the ski hill during the summer months. He stated it would probably be done twice. The hay would go towards feeding horses that reside on Fish Hatchery Road in Richmond. These horses, which include Mr. Mattson's own horse, are utilized by the Monadnock Equestrian Team. Mr. Mattson stated he already spoke with the Selectmen who had given their approval. The Recreation Commission agreed to allow Mr. Mattson to hay the ski hill, but require a certificate of insurance and asked him to let them know ahead of time before work began.
2. Open Gym for winter walking: At last month's meeting, Mrs. Beede suggested having Open Gym at Emerson School for walking laps during the winter month. She had noticed that other towns offered this program to community members so they could have access to a warm, safe place to exercise. One resident had called the office and inquired about winter walking after that meeting took place. The Recreation Commission agreed it was too late to start such a program, but would like to revisit this idea next fall in order to find a contact person figure logistics with the school.
3. Summer Rec: The Summer Recreation Program dates are June 26<sup>th</sup>-August 4<sup>th</sup>. The Selectmen approved a request to extend the program from 4 days per week to 5. It will now run Monday through Friday except for the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. The holiday falls on a Tuesday this year, so the Commission agreed to have a long weekend. Therefore, camp will run Wednesday-Friday that week only. The Selectmen also approved hiring Lisa Sander as Summer Recreation Director. She ran the program last summer. Mrs. Beede began advertising for Leader positions and sent letters of interest to former Leaders. Applications are returning and the deadline is April 14<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Beede will check with the Lion's Club who offered scholarships last summer to qualifying participants to see if any will be available again this year.
4. Fishing Derby: The Fishing Derby is tentatively scheduled for Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>. Members will check their availability and let Mrs. Beede know by tomorrow if that date works for them. Mrs. Robbitts said the Garden Club Plant and Bake Sale is scheduled for the same morning. The Commission agreed that it would not conflict and may in fact draw more people to the derby. Mrs. Beede sent an email to the Fire Department and Conservation Officer Eric Hannett to see if that date worked for them. She has yet to hear a response. Mrs. Beede proposed changing the derby hours from 9-12 to 8-11 am. No objection was heard.

5. CW5K: The Recreation Commission discussed possible dates for the CW5K Road Race that is typically held in June. Participation in the race had declined over the years. Mrs. Beede noted that there were only 32 runners for the 5K last summer and a majority were under the age of 18. In fact, most of our top runners in winning categories were “kids”. Mrs. Filipi suggested we reinvent the race and combine forces with other Departments or Commissions to draw participation and community. Mrs. Jones suggested we contact the Fire Department and see if there was a possibility of holding the race and their annual bbq on the same day. Mrs. Filipi mentioned the Town Library and wondered if we could combine efforts with them on a program to accompany the race. She remembered last year when kids who ran the Fun Run had to retrieve their prizes at the Library in order to encourage kids to sign up for their summer reading program. The Commission then discussed goodie bags and what items to fill them. Mrs. Robbitts said she believed the race was a tradition in town she didn’t want to see end. All agreed, but also agreed it should be postponed for a few months and try to revive it somehow. Further discussion will take place next meeting.
6. Neighborhood Clean Up: Mrs. Beede asked if the Commission wanted to participate in the Blue Bag Campaign this spring. Mrs. Jones said it wasn’t hugely successful in the past. She remembered only having two families show up for trash bags when she manned the booth to hand out supplies. Mrs. Beede said she researched other towns and their campaigns. The sites suggested recruiting volunteers, having a scavenger hunt, holding a party with food and maybe music afterwards to thank the volunteers. This all seemed like a good idea to the Commission but was too much planning to take on for the spring in such a short amount of time. Mrs. Beede thought a sub-committee may form to organize an event next year around Earth Day.
7. Appointments: The Appointments for Sheena Royce and Terri Robbitts expire this month. Mrs. Royce is willing to sign up for another term. Mrs. Beede will submit a request to the Selectmen’s office. Mrs. Robbitts (after 10 years) has respectfully decline to serve another term. Mrs. Beede will let the Selectmen know the Commission would like to appoint Catie Bisson (Caisse) a member.

At 8:50, Mr. Lafond made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Royce and then passed 6-0.