

Town of Northfield Public Meeting – Minutes

*Jose M*  
4/3/24  
Approved

Name of the board, committee, or commission: **Northfield Recreation Commission (NRC)**

Location of meeting (physical address): **69 Main Street, Northfield MA 01360**

Date and time the meeting convened: **March 6th 2024 at 6:30pm**

Name and contact info of the person filling out this form: Stacy Bond, [reccom@northfieldma.gov](mailto:reccom@northfieldma.gov)

Members present: 1) Josh Roman (JR) - Chair; 2) Bob Emberley (BE) – Vice Chair;  
3) Chelsea Depault (CD) – Treasurer; and 4) Laura Fries (LF) Pool Advisory Group Coordinator

Members absent: 1) Courtney Lawler (CL)

Others in attendance: 1) Stacy Bond (SB) - NRC Secretary/Director; 2) Samantha Tavares – Kiwanis; and  
3) Heather Butynski – Inclusion Soccer

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- 1) Call to Order and determine quorum
    - A) 6:33pm Chair (JR) called to order and quorum present.
  - 2) Citizen Input/Guests
    - A) Samantha Tavares, of the Northfield Kiwanis, came presenting the NRC a check from the Great River Challenge in the amount of \$3,000 to be used exclusively for parents needing help paying for our Summer Program so that their child(ren) can attend and help with a need in town. This gift is a thousand more than last year and we anticipate that it will help a lot of families (last year it helped approximately 17 children total). This year we also anticipate doing t-shirts with logos from entities doing donations to support kids being able to attend this program.
    - B) Heather Butynski (along with husband Jay Butynski) has a wonderful idea of running an “Inclusion Soccer” program this spring through the NRC. It would be small numbers, sensory friendly, non-competitive. Mid April to June 1x/week on a weekend. \$20 each to cover t-shirt costs. Cap at 10 kids. PreK to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The NRC was in favor of this new program! Thank you Heather and Jay for the idea and your willingness to run it!
  - 3) Review and approval of minutes from Feb 7th, 2024.
    - A) Motion made to approve minutes by CD, seconded by LF, vote all yea.
  - 4) Chairs Report
    - A) Nothing extra.
  - 5) Pickleball
    - A) Going well! Only 4 spots left for the year. Capped at 50 participants!
  - 6) Adult exercise class update
    - A) Also continues to have good attendance! Through Laura Rooney, NRC purchased 12 Pilates rings to be used during the Pilates-Yoga fusion class. She found them at a great price, and they will be stored under the stairs between classes.
  - 7) Pool Advisory Group
    - A) LF will be planning the April swim at the end of March.



8) Treasurer's Report

A) \$13,778.74 in revolving.

B) Discussed that by an unfortunate accident, some Pickleball checks went into the recycling. Luckily, we were able to recover some of the lost money!

9) FY 2025 budget

A) No new news.

10) Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Update

A) BE reports movement forward with proposals. Slight hang up with pavilion getting official go-ahead as heads of organizations are unsure who has the final say. LF is working on it.

11) Adult pickup basketball

A) Still going until end of March or until it naturally winds down with nicer weather.

12) Latin Dancing wrap up

A) Went well! Definitely some new faces and was a full house! The Brewery may have them back again on their own.

13) Basketball wrap up

A) SB reports that season went really well, but with all the costs involved in basketball (seems to be the most expensive sport offered) we will be looking to increase the price next year.

B) Specifically want to give a shout out to the Northfield Cougars team who won 2<sup>nd</sup> place Championship at the recent Vernon Tournament! Also, both girls teams were undefeated in the regular season! They worked especially hard and deserved an extra special treat by attending a UMASS women's basketball game! Congratulations to players and coaches!!

14) Cheerleading wrap up

A) Went well despite the small numbers. The assistant coach, Bethany Magnuson, will likely be coach next year as Coach Magen's daughter will be moving up to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

15) Indoor Soccer update

A) Seems to be going well still. Will continue to end of March.

16) Summer Program 2024

A) Confirmed that Matthew Singh will be stepping up to the Assistant Director position this year and Megan Adams will be returning as Counselor. Determined our Screening and Hiring Committee (SB, JR and Gary Conaway). Still waiting for a few more applications for Counselor. Registrations opened 3/4/24 and already have sign ups.

B) Donations: After getting the Kiwanis donation and SB speaking with Joan Stoia of the Kiwanis, she gave a couple really good ideas... to possibly reach out for additional donors and put their logos on the back of t-shirts. The committee liked this idea as well, and the idea of doing white t-shirts with black lettering came up as that would allow the kids to tie-dye them! SB will pursue additional donors and do the t-shirts this year.

17) Spring Mountain Biking

A) Registration will open 3/11/24!

18) Spring sports: Softball, Baseball and T-ball

A) SB has most of the info needed: Baseball will have Chris Goddard as the head coach and LF as Assistant Coach. Practices Mon & Thurs 4:30-5:30pm. Softball will once again be Mike Barry! Still need a t-ball coach but have a few willing to help. Just need to solidify it. Registrations will begin on 3/11/24 as well!

19) Adult softball team

A) No sign ups as of yet. If not enough interest, and alternative idea is to maybe scrimmage another group/team when we switch to softball for the FREE Adult Pick Up series. SB will do one more push with a decision to be made by 3/29/24.

20) New Program ideas



A) BE wants to see if the NRC is willing to take over his Summer Race Series that he has been organizing for many years. BE will still organize it and run it, but wants to do the registrations, etc through the NRC website and we help with the advertising. It's a 5K every Thursday June to Aug at 6:30pm. Reg \$4 per runner and \$10 cap. JR will put on next month's agenda.

B) JR would like a "Volunteer Appreciation Night" with all the volunteers that help coach, etc. during the year. Maybe at the Brewery? A good idea!

21) Directors Report

A) Reviewed checklist from the NES for the gym/cafeteria.

B) CD and BE are all set with getting on ballot and SB will be at the caucus to nominate them 3/12/24 at 6:30pm.

C) The trophy for the Girls Basketball is on top of the trophy case in the hall next to the office.

D) New DPW worker that was to help with NRC needs has quit. Hopefully the next person to fill the job works out better.

E) Waiting on the PVRSD Boys team to finish their season (they are on a winning streak!) before bugging Coach Thayer again about that basketball clinic.

F) Nothing new on the weight room other than grand opening is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>.

G) The gym use schedule came in very handy this year as there was a lot going on!

H) SB has the retention schedule for municipal recreation and plans on following that this summer to spend time going through a bunch of old paperwork and reorganizing everything in the filing cabinet at town hall.

I) Still like to do something for teens... idea to maybe use the auditorium at town hall on a Friday night? SB will look into this further.

J) Laura Rooney asked for 12 Pilates rings and she found a great deal on Ebay. We will reimburse her for the purchase.

K) JR and LF may do the open house at NES on the 14<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm. SB and CD are interested in attending the Greenfield Recreation Commission meeting that night at 6pm just for learning purposes. They have been very welcoming to have us join them!

22) Yearly dinner/dance/block party/food truck festival

A) Tabled

23) Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance

A) none

24) Scheduled next meeting for 6:30pm on April 3rd, 2024 at Town Hall

25) Adjourn

A) A motion was made to adjourn at 8:15pm by BE, seconded by JR, vote all yea.

\*Some common abbreviations: NRC = Northfield Recreation Commission, NES = Northfield Elementary School, CPC = Community Preservation Committee, and DPW = Department of Public Works