

**Northfield Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday August 3, 2022 @ 6:30pm**

I. Call to Order

A. 6:29pm Chair (SB) called to order and quorum determined

B. Present: Stacy Bond (SB)— Chair; Bob Emberley (BE); Josh Roman (JR); Courtney Lawler (CL); Chelsea Depault (CD)

II. Minutes

A. 7/6/2022 meeting minutes reviewed, corrected, and approved. **CL Motion JR second Unanimous**

III. Citizen/guest input

A. Megan MacDougall and her daughter Emma proposed the Rec. Comm. offering a cheer squad —Bernardston has one, but it is not open to Northfield residents. Also some in the area participate with the Ja'Duke cheer team (but it can get expensive).

— Megan would be willing to lead/coach this group. She has experience and willing to take safety risk management course

— 4 or 5 kids interested now

— Cheer squad would cheer for rec teams (soccer / basketball)

— Cheer instills confidence, leadership, and teamwork in youth participants

— Parameters for USACheer Level 4 were given to chair (SB)

— Ages 5 yrs through 6th grade

— No competition trips (but maybe in the future)

— Discussion regarding costs: Rec Comm would charge same fees as for other sports; uniforms (to start) would be tee-shirt style in team colors with black shorts (maybe provide more in the future); costs for uniforms can get pricey, but initially provide something on the low price-end of the available options (around \$30)

— SB mentioned that it might be difficult to get it set up for fall soccer; but possibly later in the season **once this proposal can be reviewed and approved at Sept.** meeting. It would be Emma's desire to start in the fall.

— Jim Trill (Interim NES principal) was present and voiced his support and encouragement and to answer any questions

B. Jim Trill (Interim NES principal) was in attendance to introduce himself to the commission and to express his desire to assist with the Rec. Comm. in any way he can in terms of use of NES facilities.

— He mentioned that NES is a town building and as such should be available for town events and activities.

—JR brought up some of the challenges finding a permanent location for the porta-potty so it is not taking up a parking spot. **Jim offered some solutions and JR will follow-up with these ideas.** These include a concrete pad and wall area either on the driveway side of school or on the play structure side.

— SB asked about putting in a permanent sand volleyball court. Jim open to this idea.

— SB asked about Rec Comm flyers in kids backpacks and Jim is open to this idea, but mentioned that he does have to limit access to promotion literature from outside groups. Jim agreed that it makes sense that PTO flyers and Rec Comm. flyers could be an exception

— A very positive meeting with Jim; he gave us his cell phone number if any members of the commission need to contact him. He welcomes our input and is eager to work with Rec Comm for the benefit of our youth and community

IV. CPC Report

- BE had nothing to report from CPC as the CPC is not meeting until later in August

V. Chair's report & Treasurer's Report

SB gave various updates

- Shed (shipping container) and dugout painted; shed equipment organized and old equipment given away at PTO tag sale
- PTO tag sale went well; used/old rec comm equipment went to folks who were appreciative to get it
- SB reached out to Senior Center; waiting for reply
- New road sign purchased by BE; **he will drop off letters to be stored at town hall**
- New logo paid for
- SB presented a calendar with events and schedule. This is in draft form. It was agreed that it looks good and is something that will be useful in promotion and planning; **SB will work on finalizing this and implementing.**
- SB and CD got some training with rec.com and how to integrate it with current town software rec.com is developing our web-site using new logo. **Goal is to be up and running by end of August**

- SB noted that the revolving fund can only carry over 10K per year.
- CD was sworn in as Treasurer and she and **SB will meet after the meeting to talk through the treasure responsibilities.**

VI. Sports, activities, and event updates

- Vernon pool passes at library going well; CL reports that library staff very helpful; SB reports that there is some citizen interest in a town pool
- **CL continues to work with folks at NMH** for use of pool, skating rink, etc for town rec comm activities.
- Exercise class (Laura Rooney) waiting to start based on the refinishing of floors at NES. We will pay Laura out of revolving fund. Laura has completed CORI check.
- Youth Soccer
 1. Registration starts Aug 8th through 21st. Practice to begin last week of August. **We will promote this via sign; also registration forms to be placed at library**
 2. We reviewed registration forms and made some clarification changes. Increased fee a bit to cover jerseys and names on back of jerseys. Also we will forgo the code of ethics form and there is no need of a COVID waiver
 3. **We need refs for home games. SB looking into this. Announcing need to students at PVRs and an email blast.**
 4. **BE will line field and take care of new net or net repairs. CD mentioned that her husband, Doug, has experience with this and can help.**
 5. **SB will alert Snows regarding mowing** the fields for soccer to be sure there is no conflict with games and practices.
 6. We reviewed practice schedule and will not know the game schedule until the league meeting later this month.
 7. Depending of registration numbers we will most likely **need another coach and some asst. coaches.**
 8. **SB needs to know location for porta-potty soon so they will be in place by soccer season. JR will reach out to NES principal and work on final decision on location.**
- Weight Room at PVRs. SB working with Pat Holloway who previously was paid to monitor this. She is willing and eager to do this again. Gretchen (facility director at PVRSD) will need to update whoever monitors this program regarding various safety protocols, etc. **SB will look into what Pat Holloway will be paid per hour.** Program is free for residents.

— Baseball field landscape/refurbishing

JR reached out to Snows; no response yet; JR will work on getting a crew together to work on this; it is not needed until the spring (baseball/softball season)

— Adult pick up softball is going well on Tuesdays.

1. **BE will continue to lead weekly adult pick-up sports.** In the fall (beginning Monday August 29th) we will do soccer. BE noted that there may be Mondays he will not be available, but do to the “pick-up” nature of the activity, others can lead the event in his absence.

2. **SB will look into with town manager whether we need to get waivers signed by participants at the adult pick-up activities.**

— Teen night; there is no update; SB working on the idea and is open to suggestions

— Kiwanis Park

1. Playground structure was evaluated and it is not up to ADA standards and since it installed in the 1990s it will need to be removed as it is not up to current safety and ADA standards.

2. BE noted that we have not had a full discussion regarding whether the purchase of the park is something that we should do (is it something we will be able to use for recreation activities and programs?). CL agreed that we need to think this through.

3. There are other town commissions involved in this decision (i.e. Open Space).

4. SB mentioned that the town manager is working with the process of evaluating the property as to whether this is something the town wants to and is able to purchase. The purchase price and getting grant approvals are still being worked on by others town departments.

5. It was agreed that from the stand point land acreage the property has value and use for trails, etc. Expense of maintenance and upkeep up current structures on property needs to be considered.

VII. Restructuring of Committee

1. SB has been hired as director. She so has stepped down as chair of commission. **CL moved that JR take on the roll of chair. CD seconded. Unanimous**

2. BE remains as co-chair as previously approved commission.

3. SB resigned from commission. This will free up a spot for another member. SB will reach both to a few individuals who have expressed interest in serving and or were recommended by others on the commission.

4. **Bob moved that CP take on role as treasurer; CD second Unanimous**

VIII. Schedule next meeting and adjourn

— **JR motioned to adjourn. Second CL. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned 8:08pm**

NOTE: Subsequent to meeting newly appointed chair. JR. emailed commission members regarding next meeting date and time **Wednesday, Sept 7 at 6:30**

Action items and/or actionable motions highlighted **GREEN**