

Town of Northfield Public Meeting – Minutes

*John M*  
*6/7/23*

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

Name of the board, committee, or commission: Northfield Recreation Commission

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

Date and time the meeting convened: 5/3/2023 at 6:30pm

Members present: 1) Josh Roman (JR) - Chair; 2) Bob Emberley (BE) – Vice Chair; 3) Chelsea Depault (CD) – Treasurer; 4) Laura Fries (LF) Pool Advisory Group Coordinator and 5) Courtney Lawler (CL)

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: 1) Stacy Bond (SB) - NRC Secretary/Director; 2) Steve Stoia – Kiwanis; 3) Joan Stoia – Kiwanis; and 4) Samantha Tavares – Kiwanis.

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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) None

3) Kiwanis Donation

A) Steve Stoia, Joan Stoia and Samantha Tavares presented the proceeds from the Great River Challenge Triathlon (\$2,000) to the NRC for aid for children enrolling in our Summer Program. They encouraged more volunteers to join the Kiwanis and also noted that since they hold the charter for the Boy Scouts in town, that if any of the members attend the Summer Program, that they would like them to receive a portion of this money as a discount. What a wonderful gift to the children of Northfield! Thank you, Kiwanis!!

4) Review and approval of minutes from April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

A) Motion made to approve minutes from April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 by CL, seconded by LF, vote all yea.

5) Chairs Report

A) Nothing additional

6) Baseball/Softball field upgrades

A) Baseball field done except rake out and bases.

B) West Northfield softball field taking longer and is more money as it requires three loads of sand. Turf infield conditioner for both fields is really needed. JR found in Turners 50 lb bags for \$25 which would be \$1,000 for one ton. Should last approximately 3-5 years. A motion was made to purchase infield conditioner up to \$1200 by BE, seconded b CL, vote all yea. JR will order the conditioner.

C) Maintenance of fields? How do we keep in good shape? JR ordered drag. Maybe pay a teenager to help maintain?

7) Pickleball

A) 60+ Pickleball is on Sundays from 1-2pm. There has been requests to move Pickleball outdoors for the summer, but where? And how would lines be done? Likely have to remain



indoors. Will be utilizing our large industrial fans during July. (No indoor sports in August at NES).

8) Weight Room update

A) Done until November. Will reassess days/times as last year there was low attendance.

9) Adult exercise class update

A) Switched to a yearly \$50 fee for all exercise classes and although some people are having trouble using our website (it's not very mobile friendly and you have to slow down and read it carefully) they like this new change as does the instructor. Also easier for our Treasurer.

10) Pool Advisory Group

A) LF reports that the Turners Falls pool didn't get back to us for April vacation use.

B) Camp Northfield is willing to share pool but is less cost effective than utilizing Vernon's pool. However, we like not to close the door to a pool right in town... ideas such as a "Northfield Pool Party" came to mind. Or possibly a "Teen Pool Party" or even an after party for the Summer Program? August 7<sup>th</sup> is first availability. Cost is \$400 plus life guards (1 guard per 25 kids). Approximately \$1500 for two weeks worth of use.

C) The Vernon Pool Pass from last year will happen again this year! Since CL secured it last year, she will secure it again this year.

11) Summer Program update

A) A Director and Assistant Director have been hired! Need to get through all the paperwork and look to hire one or two Councilors as well. Have MANY applications!

12) Treasurer's report

A) Nothing new to report

13) CPC update

A) Nothing new to report

14) Adult pick-up basketball/soccer

A) BE reports that basketball is still ongoing! Soccer will start and go to June on Tuesdays at 5:30pm (changed from 5pm).

15) Summer basketball 3 v 3

A) Brian Winslow will be organizing if it happens. If it doesn't happen, could possibly just organize a pick up kids basketball.

16) Baseball, Softball, Tee ball update

A) Going well

B) Will likely give up our attempt at getting baseball back in Northfield for 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> as Greenfield leagues have a strong organization that offers lots of competitive play and they put kids on teams based on skill, not just from the town they are from. Will look to something different for this age group next year.

17) 350<sup>th</sup>

A) NRC needs to order a banner with our logo on it for the parade.

B) For the Deerfield vs. Northfield Softball game, Deerfield hasn't had luck getting emergency services to sign up for the softball, so we are opting to open sign ups for both teams to the public! August 12 at West Northfield Playground (Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> as raindate).

18) Woo Sox trip

A) June 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00 game. Ticket price \$25? (Includes \$5 concessions and can have 30 people sit together). Could also do \$17 or \$10 tickets for seats further out. Need own transportation. Cut off is June 4<sup>th</sup>. Josh will organize and do a flyer.

19) Directors report



- A) A community member asked about NRC holding CPR class in town, however SB noticed that most of the Councilor (which are teens) applications showed that many were certified or about to be certified, so it seems there is local availability already.
  - B) Seems many people are having trouble navigating the MyRec website. SB would still like to keep it going and feel that it should get easier. The main issues is that it isn't great to use on a mobile device and also people do it too quickly and don't slow down to read. It isn't super user friendly to those that have a hard time with computers either.
  - C) Trash by basketball court has been mitigated by the NRC putting a trash can chained to the fence. Thank you BE!
  - D) SB still trying to think of additional storage for in and around the gym during the winter!
  - E) SB will purchase sand weights for marquee sign in front of town hall. Current set up isn't great.
  - F) The NRC budget for 2024 passed at town meeting!
  - G) If we do an adult free pick up softball we can now use the field at West Northfield Playground... also, they have a volleyball net if we chose to do that as well!
  - H) There is a single, old soccer goal behind the metal storage units. Thinking of asking WNP if they want it? Should be utilized, not sitting around in storage.
- 20) Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance
- A) There was some confusion in the Rec Com recent voting at town hall. SB will discuss with Dan Campbell what happened and help rectify issue.
- 21) Schedule next meeting June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30pm at Town Hall
- 22) Adjourn
- A) A motion was made to adjourn at 8:13pm by CL, seconded by LF, vote all yea.