

Town of Northfield Public Meeting – Minutes

Josh Elm
9/6/23
approved

Name and contact info of the person filling out this form: Stacy Bond, 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: August 2nd 2023 at 6:30pm

Members present: 1) Josh Roman (JR) - Chair; 2) Bob Emberley (BE) – Vice Chair; 3) Chelsea Depault (CD) – Treasurer; and 4) Courtney Lawler (CL)

Members absent: 1) Laura Fries (LF) Pool Advisory Group Coordinator

Others in attendance: 1) Stacy Bond (SB) - NRC Secretary/Director; 2) Hannah Bedard – Summer Program Director; 3) Gary Conaway – Summer Program Assistant Director.

1) Call to Order and determine quorum

A) 6:36pm Chair (JR) called to order and quorum present.

2) Citizen Input/Guests

A) None

3) Summer Program wrap-up

A) Keep cut off to 50 kids per week, but 20 kids per 4 staff seems to be a good sweet spot.

B) Kids seemed to want to be indoors much of the time.

C) Change hours to 8:30am to 3pm? Or if doing longer, maybe do an AM shift for staff and a PM shift.

D) Should we hire a nurse next year? Seems to be a fuzzy area. Don't think that Bernardston has a nurse on staff. CD will ask.

E) Invoice for Creamie

F) Because of varied age groups, hard to do anything as a large group. Maybe if more kids sign up will be able to divide into groups better.

G) Coordination with Pioneer and the Special Education program went well.

4) Review and approval of minutes from July 5th, 2023.

A) Motion made to approve minutes from July 5th, 2023 by BE, seconded by CL, vote all yea.

5) Chairs Report

A) Nothing extra.

6) Part-time Maintenance Position

A) Can we use someone from the DPW looking for more hours? Need help with things like maintaining softball/baseball fields during off-season, painting lines, Pickleball lines, moving seats/bleachers, various miscellaneous tasks. Might be a good job for a local teenager?

B) Discussed mowing, but seems like that is best left to a company like Snows.

C) Need to get more information.

7) Full-Time (aka "Benefitted") Director Position

- A) Committee is in favor of looking into moving the current part-time Director position into a benefitted position due to the increase in activities over the last year and with a goal of having an even more diverse offering to the community that isn't just sports-related. Also, currently we rely on the committee Treasurer for processing invoices, etc., but with typical committee turnover, this might be best suited to be done by the Director for consistency, which can easily push the hours past part-time.
- B) Committee in favor to take next steps to see how to go about doing this. SB will connect with Town Administrator for more information.
- 8) Baseball/Softball field upgrades
 - A) In preparation for the 350th Softball game, JR will be spraying weeds on the field and organizing volunteers to prep field for game. Also plans to put down field conditioner.
- 9) Summer Movie Night July 28th wrap up
 - A) Beginning of the night was good, but the bugs kicked everyone out early. Approximately 20 people came. Maybe do indoors? Maybe also consider seasonal movie nights? 4 per year?
- 10) Track and Field
 - A) Good attendance at beginning (about 10) and dropped off by end to about 4. Thinking about next time reaching out to other towns for a meet?
- 11) Pickleball
 - A) On hiatus for the month of August due to the gym resurfacing. Will need to reapply tape before restarting.
- 12) Soccer Sign-ups/planning
 - A) CL had idea of reaching out to Thomas Aquinas since there is a lot of kids there to see if they want to participate (as well as get more coaches). SB will reach out.
 - B) Discussed start dates for practice as well as times. Cost will stay the same as last year as it covered expenses with some to spare.
 - C) BE willing to help redo soccer lines. SB will email field dimensions to BE.
- 13) Adult exercise class update
 - A) Still at golf course. Doing just the one yoga/pilates class. Have about 4 regulars.
- 14) Pool Advisory Group
 - A) LF not in attendance but emailed an update.
- 15) Treasurer's report
 - A) Nothing special to report. Will reach out to Erin Degnan as monthly report doesn't show balance for the revolving account.
- 16) CPC update
 - A) Nothing new
- 17) Adult pick-up softball update
 - A) BE reports going well. Last one August 8th before the 350th game.
- 18) 350th softball game
 - A) Ready to go for game on August 12th. Northfield chose Loaves & Fishes as their local charity to donate to if they win (money comes straight from players who will put \$5 in a hat).
- 19) 350th parade
 - A) Will discuss at Sept meeting. Parade is Sept. 30th. NRC is in the parade. Will likely walk with banner as they did during the Memorial Day parade.
- 20) New program ideas
 - A) Tabled for now
- 21) Director's report
 - A) Nothing extra
- 22) Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance

A) None

23) Scheduled next meeting for September 6th, 2023 at 6:30pm at Town Hall

24) Adjourn

A) A motion was made to adjourn at 8:21pm by CL, seconded by CD, vote all yea.