

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
November 1, 2017

Call to Order

6:00 pm: Chairman Shute called the meeting to order

Present: Jeff Shute, Chairman; Nate Brown, Julie DeCosta, Bryan Giard, Amy Harrington, Ernie Roberts and Melissa Robertson Members

Also Present: Nick Lawrence, Assistant Director

Minutes - October 2017

_____ **Motion:** M. Robertson moves the minutes as written

_____ **Second:** E. Roberts

_____ **Vote: Yea 7, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

Citizens Comments

None

Parks & Recreation Director Update

Chairman Shute announced that the Parks & Recreation Director position has been offered, accepted and filled by Nick Lawrence. The Commission and Town will be looking to fill the vacated Assistant Director Position and will see if any of the candidates who were interviewed for Director may be interested. Congratulations Nick!

Commission Roster Opening

With the departure of Commission Member Ken Heckman there is a vacant seat to be filled, Dwight Barnes, a former Commission Member has expressed interest in serving the role with a term expiring April 2019.

Motion: E. Roberts moves to nominate Dwight Barnes to the Parks & Rec Commission

Second: B. Giard

Vote: Yea 7, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

The Nomination will be put before the Select Board for approval.

Hartford Brook Update

Ernie has been in contact with Jack Hutchinson regarding the project, the fence installation is expected soon. Fencing and the dugout pad installation will be the last pieces with heavy equipment disrupting the field surfaces. Dave Drapeau plans to harley rake the field in the Spring.

Chairman Shute noted that a few people have asked about the option of pushing the fence back to install a full size soccer field, but the Commission agreed that the space was not available and the space had not been designed to include those dimensions.

The alarm system was installed and the area surrounding the panel will need to be insulated. Chairman Shute noted that the temperatures will affect the smoke and fire alarms as well. The old lawn mower has not been removed, Nick will reach out to the small engine repair place in Raymond to see if they have any interest in taking it for parts. Melissa asked about the winter storage plan for the AED and Nick confirmed that it will be removed from the field now that Soccer is over and stored at the GBW Building. Ernie will work to get together a parts list remaining to close off the utility room.

Tailgate Trick or Treat Recap

Nick reported that approximately 350 cars were parked for the event, a great turnout considering the weather.

Several were upset with the gate being closed a few minutes ahead of the 1p start. Members agreed that communication will need to be more clear as to the gate close time. Chairman Shute spoke of the need to figure out a way to limit the event to Deerfield residents. By his estimate, more than half of the participants were not residents of the Town. Julie added that there should be a way for members of the community who don't necessarily live in Town, for example Town employees, to participate as well. The group discussed instituting some sort of pass system or utilizing the presence of a dump sticker to allow entrance. It was agreed that putting more strict controls around attendees will necessitate an increase in volunteers.

Bryan suggested having the parking done in the fairgrounds and to the left, and keeping an exit lane open so that cars who did not have the passes in place could be exited to the right without interrupting the flow of traffic in. Melissa noted that many other communities have similar events open to the public including Strawberry Banke and Northwood. Chairman Shute suggested circulating a survey to participants to see what sort of event the community would like to see take place next year. It was noted that having radios for the volunteers to communicate would be beneficial.

Bryan suggested that next year the Tailgate judging be broken down into categories, for example Group entries vs. Family entry, as a way to increase interest and participation.

Coffeehouse Fundraiser

Julie updated that emails have gone out with the specific details of the event and asked members to share and promote within their respective social circles. Volunteers will be needed for set up Friday night and during the event on Saturday. Julie will connect with Leslie Van Berkomp to get a more firm list of needs.

Soccer Season Review

The season wrapped up last weekend with final team celebrations on Friday and Saturday. A questionnaire about the season was circulated to parents and coaches to solicit feedback. One big takeaway from the season was the need for Officials. Seacoast United is willing and able to facilitate Official training. Overall the season ran smoothly. Melissa noted that canceling games so close to the start time, as was done on Saturday morning due to field conditions, makes it impossible to communicate. More lead time would be helpful. Nate noted that teams traveling from other Towns Saturday missed the message and ended up facing off against one another on Deerfield's field as no Deerfield teams were in attendance. He suggested looking into a One Call or mass alert system similar to that utilized by the School to communicate.

Concessions is another area for more work, Nick said that they could reach out to DCS groups to present running the Baseball and Soccer concessions as a fundraising opportunity. Julie said that she had been approached by a parent with some ideas around how best to handle and that she asked them to reach out to the Commission or Nick with their thoughts. Bryan suggested that if the ask of providing game Officials is removed, perhaps more parents will be willing to step up on the concession front.

Ernie voiced thanks to Shawn Bousaleau for his volunteering as a referee during the soccer season. Nate checked with Candia and was told that their referees source from the NH Soccer Association and do get paid.

Basketball Season Update

The registration deadline is November 10th and Nate expects the majority to roll in over the next week or so, twenty players are currently registered. The Southeast League has held one meeting regarding divisions and season scheduling and will meet again to finalize items the second week of November. Parks & Recreation is actively looking for coaches and interest seems to be strong. The pool of available referees is also deep and Nick has connected with Cindy Hanson regarding use of the DCS facilities. The Season will kick off the first two Saturdays in December.

Nick is targeting March 24th - April 1st as the dates for the 2018 Hoop Classics. He will connect with Cindy Hanson and will check to see if there are any conflicts with other area tournaments.

Nate noted that in years past Deerfield Teams who committed parents to filling volunteer slots had their entrance fee waived.

Upcoming Events

The Veterans Day recognition event will be held at the Town Hall on November 11th, the Boy and Girl Scouts will be helping with the presentation and Parks & Recreation will plan to have coffee and a sheet cake for attendees. Nick circulated a flyer for the Commission's review and will begin promoting the event. Melissa suggested that a local Veteran be asked to speak, perhaps someone could be identified through the legion.

Sit with Santa will be held November 26th from 2-4p at the Town Hall with the Fireman's Parade immediately following. Mr. and Mrs. Claus have been confirmed, Parks and Recreation will ask for attendees to bring along a baked good to share.

The Holiday Lighting contest will once again take place with different categories of competition.

Chairman Shute asked Nick to reach out to the Commission if any of the upcoming events need additional volunteers on hand.

Joe Manzi After School Clubhouse Dedication

Chairman Shute circulated a picture of the sign to be made in order to dedicate the "Joe Manzi After School Clubhouse". The Commission will look to identify a date to present the dedication to Joe and suggested doing it at the After School Clubhouse when the kids are there to take part.

Adjournment

Motion: M. Robertson moves to adjourn the November 2017 meeting

Second: G. Giard

Vote: Yea 7, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Next Meeting Wednesday, December 6th @ 6:00pm

The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.

Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission