

**Town of Chester
Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, November 13, 2023
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I. Preliminaries

1.1 Call to Order

Chairperson Dircks called the meeting to order for the Town of Chester Recreation Commission at 7:00 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Members present:

Kathryn Dircks, Chair
Marie Davies
Sandy Wright
Dana Theokas, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Members absent:

Mark Desiderio

Staff present:

Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director

II. Approval of Minutes

The Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes from the June 12, 2023, meeting. Ms. Wright moved to accept the minutes as written. Chair Dircks seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed 4-0-0.

The Recreation Commission reviewed the notes from the working meeting on October 2, 2023. Although no vote was needed, Ms. Davies moved to accept the minutes as written. Chair Dircks seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed 4-0-0.

III. Reports

3.1 Recreation Financial Report

Director Reishus reported she received the September bank statement from the Finance Director and noticed the revolving account only had about \$8,000 in it. The Town Treasurer, without communicating with Recreation, put \$50,000 into a Certificate of Deposit, with a maturity date of January 2024. The quarterly transfer (July-Sept) due from the Revolving Account to the General Fund had not been done. Also, the second quarter (Oct-Dec) payment

will also need to be made prior to the maturity date of the CD. She has spoken with the Finance Director and they will handle it on their end until the CD matures.

3.2 Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (SHFAC)

The SHFAC requested that the Board of Selectmen approve a Town Regulation that dogs must be kept on leash on the Spring Hill Farm property on Towle Road (farm and trails). A public hearing was held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, and the Regulation passed.

3.3 Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Commission (WPC&RC)

Representatives from the Wason Pond Wrangler and the former Wason Pond Pounder met with the Commission in to answer questions regarding their non-profit status and where funds were being donated from the event.

IV. Old Business

4.1 Recreation Programming

Director Reishus updated the Commission on Recreation programming:

Boot Camp: A new boot camp session started last week, which will run through the end of the year.

Pickleball: She received a quote for \$6,200 to paint pickleball lines on the MPR floor. She is waiting for a second quote. She continues to apply painter's tape, as it has to be removed each week. The pickleball players are willing to help with some of the funding, but no one expected the cost to be that high.

Soccer: Soccer has ended, and had their season-end party and pictures last week. The Soccer Board is holding a meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 15, to try to enlist new volunteers, as many have aged out of the program.

4.2 Recreation Events

Town Fair: The Town Fair Committee will be scheduling a planning meeting either in December or after the first of the year. They will be sending out an invite to community members, past vendors, and volunteers to discuss next year's Town Fair.

Halloween: Director Reishus thanked Kathy and Randy for handing out Halloween candy in her absence.

4.3 CIP/Impact Fees

Recreation goes in front of the Planning Board on Wednesday, Nov. 15, for the CIP Project Review. There is only one new item on the CIP, the MPR bleachers.

V. New Business

5.1 Upcoming Programming - Basketball

Practices for the middle-level basketball began last week. Grade 3/4 is set to begin this week and K-2 will begin in mid-December, after the Saturday block-out days in the MPR. There are 140 kids enrolled in the program, so more referees are needed. The Commission discussed whether identifying refs as minors will avoid abuse from parents.

She will be opening and closing the school gym, so her hours will probably change.

5.2 Upcoming Events - SHF Winter Festival

There is a Working Group meeting on Monday, November 20, 2023, to begin planning the SHF Winter Festival. Director Reishus will send out an email to the community groups that helped put together the last festival.

5.3 Any Other New Business

There is no heat currently in the MPR. The company is waiting for a part to come in. Director Reishus is working with the Town Maintenance Department. The Seniors Coffee Hour was moved to Stevens Memorial Hall and some Recreation programming has been canceled.

Director Reishus will be on vacation the week after Thanksgiving.

The Commission discussed whether dogs are allowed on the sidelines of the soccer field during games and decided this is a WPC&RC decision.

VI. Adjournment

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 12, 2024.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Beth Haggeli
Recording Secretary*