

**Town of Chester
Recreation Commission (RC) Working Meeting
Monday, October 2, 2023
Municipal Complex**

I. Preliminaries

1.1 Call to Order

Chairperson Dircks called the meeting to order for the Town of Chester Recreation Commission at 6:00 PM. As there was not a quorum, this will be a working meeting.

1.2 Roll Call

Members present:

Kathryn Dircks, Chair
Marie Davies
Dana Theokas, Selectboard Liaison (joined at 6:10 p.m.)

Staff present:

Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director

II. Approval of Minutes

The Recreation Commission tabled approval of the minutes from the June 12, 2023, meeting until the next official meeting.

III. Reports

3.1 Recreation Financial Report

Director Reishus reported there is \$85,000 in the revolving programming account, which is typical. This amount includes the current soccer registrations; however, expenses have not been withdrawn as of yet.

3.2 Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (SHFAC)

Trail Ride / Fall Festival: Director Reishus reported she heard both events went well. There was an incident with ground bees on the trail ride. Emergency personnel arrived and treated the injured rider. The trail markers helped the emergency personnel locate the incident site.

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

Director Reishus updated the Commission on the following issues:

Garage: The damage done to the garage roof by a tree falling on it was repaired mid-August.

Car Show: Like Nu is holding a second car show, Trunk or Treat, on Sunday, October 15th from 1 to 4 pm. Director Reishus is still waiting for payment for the extra portable cleaning from the last event and the insurance certificate for the new one this month.

Chester Academy: Chester Academy had four cross country meets at Wason Pond in September. They have also been utilizing the Wason Fields for soccer games, as the Town fields hold water longer.

IV. Old Business

4.1 Recreation Programming

Director Reishus updated the Commission on the following programs:

Boot Camp, Senior Fitness and Walking Club continue to run smoothly.

Pickleball is going extremely well. Over 70 people have been playing, 8 to 14 players per session. She is investigating who to contact to professionally mark lines on the MPR floor. The group is willing to donate towards putting down permanent markings.

Summer Program: Approximately 72 kids participated, with 21 staff. They will be losing the lifeguard for this upcoming year, so are recruiting replacements.

Soccer Program started the end of August, with over 200 kids and many volunteers. Background checks are in the process for the new coaches, which Recreation does every three years.

4.2 Recreation Events - Town Fair

Chester Town Fair was difficult this year, with little Town departmental support, no recognition from the Board of Selectmen, and a small organization committee. The Rec Commission originally agreed to run the fair until the 300th anniversary. The Commission discussed the difficulty in finding volunteers and possible plans moving forward. There will be a meeting in November to discuss whether the Town Fair should continue and in what form.

4.3 Impact Fee (23-24)

Director Reishus updated the Commission on the following projects:

Town Fields fencing: Project is now complete.

Beach area pavilion: Waiting for an update on geotechnical samples.

Wason Pond causeway bridge engineering costs: Waiting for an update on this project.

Undesignated Impact Fees for Recreation: The Commission discussed whether they would like to add Table 10 items. They agreed to spend the existing impact fees on smaller projects, such as chairs and tables for the MPR.

V. New Business

5.1 Upcoming Programming

Basketball: Director Reishus reported they had their first league meeting last month. The registration fee has not been increased from \$65/person in some time. They broke even last year. They might have to increase it \$5/person, if supplies are needed. It is difficult to find refs. Registration will open the end of the week.

5.2 Upcoming Events

Winter Festival at Spring Hill Farm: This is the third season this event is being held. There is good community participation. Working group meetings will probably start next month.

5.3 CIP (Project Request & Evaluation Form)

The Commission discussed the draft table and the projects that have been completed:

Field Drainage: They discussed whether field drainage repair should be presented as a warrant article to see if it will be approved. The field and dirt parking lot cannot be used for a year, if it is repaired, which will mainly impact Chester Academy.

Skateboard Park/Fitness Area: The Commission discussed whether to move forward with changing the skateboard park into a fitness area. The Chester Academy playground committee has suggested their plans will be impacted by this decision. They discussed adding permanent lights to the fields as well.

Pickleball: The Commission discussed turning the basketball court into a permanent fenced-in pickleball court. The only public basketball court is in Chester. In the recreation community, a lot of towns are discouraging outdoor pickleball courts, due to the noise levels.

Wason Pond Beach Area: The Commission discussed repairing and expanding the paved area in front of the beach store that was damaged by the tree removal company. They considered if it could be replaced by a cement pad for basketball, which could possibly be included with the bridge reconstruction package.

The Commission discussed other low-cost items that could be added to the table, such as a dog park and maintaining benches and bleachers. They also discussed structures to house Porta Potties.

5.4 Any Other New Business

VI. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on November 11, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Haggeli
Recording Secretary