

**Town of Chester
Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, August 13, 2018
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I. Preliminaries

1.1 Call to Order

Chairperson Trask called the meeting to order for the Town of Chester Recreation Commission (RC) at 7:36 pm.

1.2 Roll Call

RC members present:

Michelle Trask, Chairperson
Kendra Kearney
Kevin Kistler
Melinda Mafera
Maria Oakley
Rick Pike
Jeremy Owens- BOS Liaison

RC members absent:

Leslie Hammond, Vice Chairperson

Staff present:

Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director

II. Review and Approve minutes from July 23, 2018 meeting.

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the July 23, 2018 meeting.

Chair Trask made a motion to accept the July 23, 2018 minutes as presented; Mr. Pike seconded the motion. Motion approved, 5-0-0.

III. Old Business

3.1 Chester Academy Gym Usage

Ms. Reishus recapped for the Commission the previous discussions they had had in May and June regarding meeting with Superintendent Lockwood to discuss the Chester Academy gym usage for the Town's Recreation basketball program.

The Commission discussed the Recreation Commission's basketball program. They agreed that at the minimum number, they would have eight basketball teams.

Ms. Reishus reviewed the MPR availability, noting that unless they cancel other Town Recreation programming currently using the MPR, Tuesday for one hour, and Wednesdays are available.

The Commission discussed the MPR being "not an ideal space" for the older kids' basketball teams, and the need for the teams to have two practices per week.

The Commission had much discussion about the number of practices teams should have, the number of teams expected, the available space at Chester Academy, and what the Town program has been given for practice times in the past. Ms. Reishus noted that for the eight teams practicing last year, they only had two days during which they could practice at Chester Academy.

Ms. Mafera clarified that the Recreation Commission is requesting that Chester Academy give gym usage preference to the Chester Recreation Town-wide program over another selective, non-Town sponsored program.

The Commission discussed the need for coaches for certain age groups.

The Commission discussed the best time to meet with Superintendent Lockwood.

The agreed to schedule a time before the next School Board meeting.

Mr. Pike explained that the allocation of the gym should be prioritized for the kids that live in Town and play on the Town Recreation team getting the time to practice and use the school gym.

Mr. Owens agreed that from a Town perspective the concern is that the kids on the Town Recreation team get the playing time they need.

3.2 Fall Soccer

Ms. Reishus stated that Vice Chair Hammond (not present) is the new Soccer Board president.

Chair Trask noted that the program starts August 25, 2018.

Ms. Reishus said that she set up a soccer email to which the Soccer Board has access, but only the administrator and the President will be responding to questions.

3.3 Summer Program

The Commission discussed the Summer Program.

Mr. Pike asked if it was possible to use Chester Academy during days with inclement weather. He noted that the school is paid for by Town taxes and that the Commission should approach the School Board for access to the school on rainy days. Mr. Pike explained that the facility is bigger than the MPR and would be a good space for the campers during bad weather.

Ms. Reishus said that Town Programs are not allowed access to the school during the summer.

Ms. Oakley explained that the MPR isn't conducive to having all the campers in the space for a full day of bad weather.

Ms. Reishus said that she would have to check with the insurance provider to see if that would work at the school.

Chairperson Trask agreed that the Commission should discuss with the School Board the use of the school space by the Summer Recreation Program during bad weather.

Mr. Pike clarified that he wants to understand why Town programs are not allowed access to Chester Academy facilities, but, other private groups are allowed preferential treatment and allowed to use the Chester Academy facilities, when we all pay the same taxes.

Ms. Reishus distributed to the Commission the survey/evaluations which she will be sending out to the parents and counselors.

Ms. Oakley asked if there is an evaluation or survey about the program itself, or the facilities, or administration.

Ms. Reishus noted that overall camper satisfaction is part of the survey.

The Commission discussed the different questions.

The Commission discussed Summer Program activities and what activities they can add to the program.

Activities, such as, hiking and kayaking were discussed, and how to engage campers who were often bored. Ms. Oakley suggested reviewing the electronics policy to allow campers more access to electronics.

Ms. Reishus explained that the program would require more lifeguards who are amenable to campers kayaking to be able to add that activity.

Ms. Reishus and the Commission had much discussion about Summer Program activities.

Ms. Oakley said that she has questions that she would like to add to the survey.

Ms. Reishus noted that the survey usually goes out this week so she would like Ms. Oakley to get back to her about the questions soon.

The Commission discussed the cost of the program, and numbers of campers.

3.4 Chester Town Fair

Mr. Owens suggested to have representation from all the Chester Town Boards at the Town Fair.

Ms. Reishus noted that the Town Fair meeting is tomorrow. She said that they are looking for volunteers to run the midway games, and Sunday morning clean-up crew.

3.5 MPR – Water Cooler

Ms. Reishus said that she is waiting on pricing from the plumber. She said that the cost would possibly have to go into the CIP as improvements to the MPR.

3.6 Stevens Hall/ Chester Historical Society/ Dances

3.7 Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Area

Ms. Reishus updated the Commission on Wason Pond. She noted that the park ranger has started.

Ms. Reishus said that Wason Pond was recently posted in a local newspaper as a "Great Place to Visit."

IV. Reports - None

V. New Business

5.1 All Levels Boot Camp

Ms. Reishus updated the Commission on the All Levels Boot Camp.

5.2 Back to School BBQ

Ms. Reishus noted that the Back to School BBQ is August 29. She suggested a Commission member be present to promote the Recreation Programs. Ms. Reishus said that she will not be available that day.

VI Other

Chair Trask noted that she needs to move her appointment to the Commission to August 23.

Ms. Reishus said that Chester Baseball will be attending the next Recreation Commission meeting.

Mr. Kistler noted that a discussion regarding a pavilion at Wason Pond should be revisited.

Ms. Reishus said that Matthew Qualters has finished staining the benches and horseshoe pits of his Eagle Project at Wason Pond.

Ms. Oakley gave the Commission an update on the Spring Hill Board advisory committee, noting that they are planning a fall festival October 13, 2018.

VII Adjournment

Chairperson Trask adjourned the meeting at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Recording Secretary,
Molly Qualters

Next Meeting – August 27, 2018 at 7:30 pm.