

**Town of Chester
Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2020
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I. Preliminaries

1.1 Call to Order

Chairperson Dircks called the hybrid (in-person and Zoom teleconference) meeting to order for the Town of Chester Recreation Commission (RC) at 7:02 PM.

1.2 Roll Call

RC members present:

Marie Davies

Kathryn Dircks, Chairperson

David Webster, Vice Chairperson (arrived remotely at 7:07 PM)

RC members absent:

Jeremy Owens, BOS Liaison

Staff present:

Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director

II. Approval of Minutes

The RC reviewed the minutes from July 30, 2020. Ms. Davies made a motion to accept the July 30, 2020 minutes as written; Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. Motion approved, 3-0-0.

III. Reports

3.1 Recreation Budget / Revolving Account

Director Reishus reported that we are in the second quarter of the budget cycle now. She met with the Board of Selectmen on October 8, 2020 and as requested by the Town Administrator the budget was kept flat lined for FY 21/22. The RC reviewed the current budget, the proposed budget, and the revolving account reconciliation as of October 31, 2020.

3.2 Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (SHFAC)

Director Reishus gave an overview of the last few meetings of the SHFAC. The Board of Selectmen have approved to pay the Trust's farm insurance which would cover the buildings, activities, and equipment liability. The town is also working with an engineer to see what is needed for ADA compliance to convert the farmhouse into a place of assembly to hold meetings, workshops, etc. The Ortins who have been renting the high tunnel and farm stand is in the process of obtaining approval to have a food truck at the location. The Fall Festival was canceled due to COVID-19 but are exploring some activities that can be done on the property this coming winter and spring.

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

The WPC&RC moved to enter into Phase 3 Reopening Plan effective Monday, September 14, 2020: Beach area will continue to be limited to capacity of up to 50 people; Fields will be open for recreational use and any organized play or event must be reserved; Parking open at all designated areas; and the Playground is open. The Beaver Deceiver was installed and appears to be doing its job. Conservation is still working on the receptacle for the fishing line. The Pavilion design has been received but waiting for further information. The RC discussed the issues over the last few years and if a pavilion was a good idea with the town not being able to restrict usage. The Community Center remains closed as a potential quarantine site for our first responders. The WPC&RC reviewed the bids for the ADA Compliance Ramp and forwarded their recommendation for the aluminum ramp to the BOS with some questions regarding the aesthetics of bare aluminum. Hunting was also discussed and the WPC&RC voted to prohibit hunting on the property but did not vote to post the property but to just update the rules and put some No Hunting signs at the entrances. This topic will stay on the agenda as the BOS had some concerns with not legally posting.

IV. Old Business

4.1 CIP/Impact Fees Pending Projects

Director Reishus met with the Planning Board on October 14, 2020. Everything was pushed out in years to be conservative as requested. Recreation is asking for no CIP Warrant Articles for any projects in the 21-22 budget period. Items remaining in the CIP table are the Beach Area Pavilion (22-23), Ballfields Equipment Sheds (23-24), Refurbish Playground (23-24), Ballfields Goals, Field Lining Equipment (24-25), Gravel Entrance/Parking Area at the Spring Hill Farm Lane Road Property (24-25) and the Ballfields Toilet Facility (25-26). The Fitness Trail was also requested to be brought back into the CIP table. The intent was to use Impact Fees towards this project.

There is currently \$5,150.00 of impact fee releases for the Beach Area Pavilion at Wason Pond (\$4,150.00 for engineering and \$1,000.00 for geotechnical samples). Selectmen Myette is the point person for this project, and we are waiting for an update. We also have \$1,153.20 of impact fees releases remaining for the MPR – Water Filling Station. The initial part of the project is complete. Director Reishus will look into purchasing additional water filters depending on expiration dates.

4.2 COVID-19 Impact on Events/Programming

The annual Town Fair was canceled in September due to COVID-19. The soccer program was modified to an in-house program this year to minimize the players going to and from other towns. Recreation continues to run virtual classes for Boot Camp and Senior Fitness. Director Reishus has purchased a system to use for hybrid classes so members of the community who normally attend but are not able to at their homes would have the opportunity to use the gym for fitness classes. Yoga was able to use the tent behind the town offices for outdoor classes this summer and transitioned into the MPR on a limited pre-registration system in September and has been going well.

V. New Business

5.1 Upcoming Events / Programming

The Wason Pond Halloween Scavenger Hunt went very well. It was set up for the last two weekends in October and had a great turnout. Mr. Webster said he took his nephew, and it was very entertaining and also saw others participating and having fun. RC discussed doing another one at the end of the year for the holiday season either back at the Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Area or at another town location like Spring Hill Farm.

Director Reishus discussed the basketball program as it is on the high-risk end of indoor sports. Recreation does not have use of the school gym this year, so we are be limited to the Multi-Purpose Room. Other towns are also in the same situation. There is a league meeting tomorrow and they are postponing the start of the games until the first of the year. Director Reishus will also be attending the New Hampshire Recreation and Park Association meeting next Thursday which youth sports and winter activities will be discussed and hopefully get some updated guidance.

5.2 Non-Public Session to Review Expired Non-Public Minutes

Ms. Davies made a motion to enter Non-Public Session under RSA 91 A:3, II (c) Reputation; Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0-0, with a roll call vote: Davies – yes, Dircks – yes, Webster – yes.

The Commission entered Non-Public session at 7:42 pm.

Ms. Davies made a motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public session; Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. Motion approved, 3-0-0.

The Commission entered Public session at 7:54 pm.

Ms. Dircks made a motion that the Non-Public Session minutes from January 9, 2006 be sealed for a duration of indefinitely, because it is determined the divulgence of this information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the Recreation Commission; Ms. Davies seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0-0, with a roll call vote: Davies – yes, Dircks – yes, Webster – yes.

Mr. Webster made a motion that the Non-Public Session minutes from November 5, 2018 be left unsealed; Ms. Davies seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0-0, with a roll call vote: Davies – yes, Dircks – yes, Webster – yes.

Mr. Webster made a motion that the Non-Public Session minutes from January 14, 2019 be left unsealed; Ms. Davies seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0-0, with a roll call vote: Davies – yes, Dircks – yes, Webster – yes.

Ms. Davies made a motion that the Non-Public Session minutes of tonight's meeting be left unsealed; Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0-0, with a roll call vote: Davies – yes, Dircks – yes, Webster – yes.

VI. Adjournment

The RC meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinna L. Reishus
Recreation Director