

**Town of Chester  
Recreation Commission (RC) Meeting  
Monday, June 14, 2021  
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 7:06 PM.

*1.2 Roll Call*

**Members present:**

Marie Davies  
Kathryn Dircks, Chairperson  
David Webster, Vice Chairperson

**Staff present:**

Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director

**Guest present:**

Mark Desiderio

*1.2 Welcome*

Mark Desiderio was welcomed as an interested volunteer.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The RC reviewed the minutes from the February 8, 2021 meeting. Ms. Davies moved to accept the February 8, 2021 minutes as written; Mr. Webster seconded. The motion was approved 3-0-0.

**III. Reports**

***3.1 Recreation Budget / Revolving Account***

The budget cycle is almost complete, as the end of the fiscal year is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Budget Lines that have excess balances as of May 31, 2021:

- Training: \$500 – Everything was either canceled or trainings were at no cost.
- Supplies and equipment - \$1,800 – After purchasing office supplies, funds might be used to purchase 1-2 metal picnic tables for Wason Pond. They can be staked down, whereas the wooden ones are thrown into the pond.
- Playground - \$1,100 – Some will be spent on bark mulch.

- Recreation Revolving Account balance as of May 31, 2021 is \$71,512.37.

### **3.2 Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (SHFAC)**

Director Reishus reported that clean-up day was Saturday and went very well. Approximately 29 people participated.

The Fall Festival will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> this year.

The RC is discussing having a Winter Carnival with ice skating. The Fire Department could help with a bonfire, possibly burn Christmas trees. It could be held during February vacation time.

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

The Fire Department and the Maintenance Department have not put out the buoys yet. They were delayed due to the fishing derby. Hopefully they will be going out this week. Mr. Webster noted that the beach is in need of sand and the ticks are bad in the grass. Director Reishus discussed the guidelines for improving the beach with Selectman Couture, who works for the DES. The RC discussed the possibility of applying for grants to pay for any beach work done.

The pond water was tested and passed. It will probably be tested again before the summer programs start. Municipalities are exempt from testing requirements, but the Town does test.

The WPC discussed the so-called dog beach – the small beach area near the circle. It is considered part of the "big beach," so the same rules apply (no animals on the beach).

The new fishing line receptacles installed in cooperation with the Chester Rod & Gun Club are being used and have been well received. The Conservation Commission will take the fishing line to Fish & Game for recycling. Mr. Webster suggested painting the receptacles brown to blend in better.

They have received the engineered plans for the pavilion, which will be timber frame construction with lumber harvested from the woods. The plans are being reviewed by the Building Department. The RC has impact fees that could be used to fund this project. A decision needs to be made if the RC wants to use Recreation funds. Groups from other towns have been calling, asking to use the property. A reservation system could be implemented.

**Eagle Scout project:** Mr. Alex Brillhart is still scheduled to replace the wooden boards behind the pond this summer. His Eagle Scout project has been approved.

## **IV. Old Business**

### **4.1 Fishing Derby**

The Fishing Derby was held on June 5<sup>th</sup>. About 60 children participated, half of which were Chester residents and half from out of town. The Police Department assisted. The pond was stocked with 250 brook trout and Fish & Game matched the amount for a total of 500 fish. It was the 19<sup>th</sup> derby sponsored by the RC.

### **4.2 Summer Program**

Summer programming will be held July 6<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>. Registration is open, staff has been hired, one of the lifeguards is returning, and a counselor has been hired to do beach patrol. They will be following the Universal Best Practices, staying in cohorts and limited group sizes.

#### **4.3 Town Fair**

The Town Fair will be happening this year. The committee has been meeting; the next meeting is next Wednesday. They are looking for vendors and sponsors. A local band – Sunday Ave – is being considered as entertainment. A local musician will be performing before the band. There will be a midway and fireworks display.

#### **4.4 ESports**

Fourteen players signed up. The next session starts next month. \$200 was put down, and \$112.50 was returned.

### **V. New Business**

#### **5.1 In-Person Programming**

- Yoga has been held in the MPR. Starting with the next session, June 28<sup>th</sup>, classes will be held in the Activities Room in the Annex. The classes will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Boot Camp has been in hybrid model. Tomorrow, it will return to being held in person. Painters tape will be laid down to mark social distancing boundaries. The equipment will not be shared.
- Senior Fitness has been fully virtual. The instructor, Kim, has been in the role for over 12 years. She has moved, so would like to stay virtual. The Boot Camp instructor is willing to come in for in-person classes. Kim will teach one virtual class a week and the Boot Camp instructor will do one in-person class a week. Ms. Dircks said the seniors look forward to the in-person classes as a way to get out of their homes and socialize.
- Pickup sports will be brought back in the fall.
- Soccer Board meeting is tomorrow to discuss the fall soccer program. UNH is holding the Soccer Sphere Chester Camp August 2-5 from 4:30 to 7:30 PM at Town fields.
- A field hockey might be held this fall, but it might be put off until the spring. It depends on the availability of the instructor.

#### **5.2 Any other new business**

The CIP Table needs to be discussed at the next meeting. It will need to be updated by November.

22/23 – \$40,000 – Beach Area Pavilion

23/24 – \$10,000 – Ballfields Equipment Sheds

23/24 – \$50,000 – Refurbish Playground

24/25 – \$10,000 – Ballfields – Goals, Field Lining Equipment

24/25 – \$10,000 – Gravel entrance/parking at SHF Lane Road property

25/26 – \$50,000 – Ballfields Toilet Facility

27/28 – \$20,000 – Fitness Trail (not on table)

The current undesignated REC impact fee balance is \$40,176.10. If the WPC asks for help funding the pavilion project, the RC could vote to use the impact fees towards the pavilion projects so the taxpayers won't be asked to pay for it.

Director Reishus would like to put picnic tables on the CIP Table again for next year.

**VI. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be September 13, 2021.

Mr. Webster made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Davies seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Beth Haggeli***  
***Recording Secretary***