

**Town of Sunapee: Recreation Committee  
Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2021**

- **In Attendance:** Charleen Osborne, Samantha Heino (6:20), Melissa Trow, Jesse Socci, Megan Oxland, Dan Hayward, Dan Whitmoyer, Tim Berube.
    - **Guests:** Shannon Martinez: Sunapee Town Manager, a handful of residents including the Sunapee Pickleballers
  - **Meeting called to order by Charleen at 5:33 PM**
  - **Meeting Ended: 6:45 PM**
  - **Non-Public Meeting Start: 6:45 PM**
  - **Non-Public Meeting End: 7:20 PM**
  - **3 Votes and no policy updates took place during this meeting**
    - 1) **Vote one was to re-instate open gym after an off year due to COVID, Vote two was to move forward with the Veterans Field feasibility study, and Vote three was to appeal to the board regarding the FT Rec Position. All details are below.**
  - **Attachments: None**
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**1) Approval of minutes from last meeting(s)**

- a. Meeting minutes for October and November were unanimously approved

**2) Celia Osborne – Girl Scout Bronze/Silver Project Fitness Trail**

- a. Celia has now completed her project and the equipment is now able to be used. A layer of wood chips has been added to aid in keeping the heat in on the footings so the concrete can fully cure. More finish work / landscaping needs to be completed in the spring to tie to project together.

**3) Basketball Update**

- a. Basketball is off to a great start and there have been no issues so far. Participation numbers have been good. Megan is going to gather coaches contact information at the games this upcoming weekend to put it all together and have it in one spot. There was some confusion on gym access but that has all been straightened out.

- a. K-2 girls and boys numbers are TBD
  - b. 3-4 girls have 8 participants
  - c. 3-4 boys have 16 participants (2 teams)
  - d. 5-6 girls have 13 participants
  - e. 5-6 boys have TBD participants
- b. There was a COVID question. We are abiding by Sunapee School guidelines. When we play away, we must follow the away towns rules and vice versa. There have been no issues raised about COVID protocol to date and everyone has been great about communicating.

#### **4) Open Gym**

- a. Sunapee Recreation is excited to announce that open gym is going to return after a year off due to COVID. The parameters of this are going to be as follows and is pending on a few action items.
  - a. Shannon stated that there needs to be a more formal process for gym and facility access. The committee is in full support of this and agrees with her. Anyone who is going to be a point person for these types of events needs to fill out proper documentation with Town Hall in order to gain access to the facilities.
  - b. Tim has offered to be the point person for Open Gym, as long as he is able to find an alternate person to help him cover any days that he potentially cannot make.
  - c. The committee has decided that to help with COVID, all Open Gym participants are going to be asked to bring their own basketball(s) to the event.
  - d. Open Gym will be scheduled to be on Saturdays starting Jan. 08 and will be from 6-8 PM
  - e. Megan made a motion to approve Open Gym, pending the above all happen. Melissa seconded the motion. The committee as all in favor.

#### **5) Skating Rink**

- a. Craig said that he will take care of the morning clean-off and spray down during the week and that the committee needs to find someone to complete these tasks on the weekend.

- b. The committee determined that we want to look into hiring someone for this task on the weekends, but agreed that we could fill in if necessary.
- c. They need to wait for freezing temperatures in order to put the liner down and begin to make the ice. The ground is currently still too soft
- d. The committee determined that the skate rentals be something that we need to continue due to COVID still being prevalent. The rentals are free of charge, it is simply a method of making sure that everyone who wants to use skates for the season has their own pair for the whole season. The Recreation Committee is going to determine a method of signing these skates out so that we can make sure they get returned at the end of the season.
- e. As always, the Recreation Committee will accept any donations of skates, sticks, pucks, or milkcrates for the skating rink.

#### **6) Veterans Field Phase 1**

- a. The next step with Pathways is to approve a feasibility study for Veterans Field Phase 1. This study is going to cost \$4920.
- b. There was a petition put forth by the Sunapee Pickleballers asking that the committee still continue to attempt to make Phase 1 happen.
- c. Pathways is going to try their best to get us the study by year's end, as long as we get them approval in a reasonable amount of time.
- d. The committee feels that this is something that needs to continue to move forward, and is important to our town and programs. Jesse made a motion to continue with the feasibility study. Dan H seconded this. The committee was all in favor.
- e. Shannon is going to bring this forward and help the committee find out exactly how to make it happen.

#### **7) Warrant Articles**

- a. The Board of selectmen have stated that they do not want the full time recreation directors position or the passenger van on the ballot this March.
  - a. After discussion by the committee and a comment from a resident present at the meeting, the committee determined that we would like to appeal to the Board of Selectmen and ask them to re-consider keeping the full time position on the ballot. The reasoning is as follows.

- b.** Recreation has been and always will be very important to the town and its residents. Just because we had an employee depart our town, does not mean that the job can just fall to the back burner.
- c.** Recreation in the Town of Sunapee has grown a lot, even in just the past few years and we need someone dedicated to continuing all of our programming.
- d.** An example was given about Summer Camp. This was the first summer of camp and it was wildly successful and profitable. Without a FT director, this could fall by the wayside. Also it is not just year round residents that rely on this, also vacationers who spend a lot of money into our town. If a vacationer comes in and rents a home on the lake for 4 weeks, they may want their children to attend summer camp for 2 of those weeks so that they can enjoy some time to themselves.
- e.** To put how important this is into perspective, we already have at least 22 campers signed up for every week of camp next summer, and it is only December. Without a FT person, it would be difficult to continue to support this, and other events.
- f.** Note: The committee is ONLY asking the board to re-consider the FT position article, not the passenger van.
- g.** Melissa made a motion to approve the above, Dan seconded. The committee was all in favor.

## **8) Other**

- a.** Shannon shared with the committee how her and Scott were discussing the possibility of an external study being done by a person at UNH. This person would come in and recommend to the committee and the town about how to move forward with Recreation and also provide us with a long term strategic plan. The committee is in full support of looking into this and thinks that it is a great idea to help us move forward.
- b.** The committee and Shannon discussed that for the time being, we are going to focus on making basketball, open gym and the skating rink happen. Other events will eventually come back into the light, however the committee needs some time to really take a step back and evaluate how to move forward with Scotts departure.

- c. It is important to note that the Recreation Committee is fully committed to still being there for the Town of Sunapee and its residents, and will do everything in our power to still provide high quality recreational programming.

**9) Adjournment & Non-Public**

- a. The public portion of the meeting concluded at 6:39 PM
- b. There was then a motion made by \_\_\_\_\_ to enter into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a) (dismissal, promotion or compensation). The motion was seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ and the vote to enter was unanimous.
- c. After a few minutes was allowed for the public to exit, the committee entered into non-public at 6:45PM.
- d. At 7:20 PM, there was a motion made to exit non-public session by \_\_\_\_\_. The motion was seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ and the vote to exit was unanimous.
- e. The meeting officially concluded at 7:20 PM