

**Town of Sunapee: Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes for July 12, 2022**

- **In Attendance:** Steve Bourque, Charleen Osborne, Jesse Socci, Samantha Heino, Dan Whitmoyer
 - **Guests:** Shannon Martinez: Sunapee Town Manager
- **Meeting called to order by Charleen at 5:30PM**
- **Meeting Ended: 7:27PM Motion made by Dan, Seconded by Jesse**
- **One vote and no policy updates took place. The vote is highlighted below.**

Topic 1: Dewy / Veterans Sport Allocation / Potential Dewy Donation

- A discussion was held about which sports to hold on which field. The discussion came about because of a potential donation to turn Dewy to an all grass infield. The main goal of this project is to cut down on the upkeep that would need to be done to keep grass from growing in the infield area, which is currently an issue.
- The committee's main concern is that we would lose a softball field, however by purchasing portable drop in bases and either a portable mound or two separate pitching areas in one mound, that the issue would be solved.
- Friends of Sunapee Recreation has agreed to support up to a \$2800 purchase of said equipment.
- A bit more research and thought is to be done to finish up, however the committee reaffirmed its support for the donation to turn Dewy infield into grass, under the impression that we can make proper adjustments to Veterans as to not lose a softball field.

Topic 2: Full Time Recreation Director and Organizational Structure

- The end goal of Shannon and the Recreation Committee is to have a multi-person staff running the Recreational Department in Sunapee to a point where it is self-sufficient.
- The committee believes that there is a large disconnect between what actually falls under Recreation and what voters believe is Recreation. Recreation is a large term that is used, and our area covers everything from youth sports, to some of the 4th of July events, road races, multiple facilities including but not limited to Dewy field, Dewy beach, Veterans Field, Georges Mills Beach, Tilton Park and more. This is not close to a total list. In addition, we partner with many other groups in town to make events happen.
- The committee is hopeful that with a strategic plan and a restructuring of the department, that we can get support from the Board of Selectmen and end up getting full time member(s), so that we can get to a place where we can comfortably run all of these events.

- A point was made that even if we had 2 full time staff members, it may actually end up saving taxpayer money because items won't fall through the cracks and we can get our events to a point where most of them are self-funded.
- Funding: Part of the reason why we need multiple full time members is not only because of the well over 40 hours of work that it actually takes to do this job, but also because in the past our budget was overspent as a result of miscommunication / misrepresentation. Results of the last audit showed the Recreation Department was \$19,562.53 overspent. The committee was never given accurate budget updates when this loss occurred. Steps have been taken with re-structuring and better communication, that this should not occur in future budgets.
- The current budget this year is on track and is currently at 14.75% spent, without including a few larger expenses that have not been recorded yet. Shannon estimates that after those larger items are recorded, we will be around 30% spent.

Topic 3: Fall Soccer

- Aug 1 deadline for registration
- There is a short turnaround time between registration close and when rosters are due to leagues, therefore any late adds will be asked to opt to participate in a skills and drills clinic instead
- All can be found on Rec Desk

Topic 4: After School Program

- It was brought to the attention of the Recreation Committee that the school is seeking to partner with us to run an afterschool program
- The committee strongly feels that we do not have the proper structure or staffing to accomplish this
- It was brought up by multiple members that this is something that is extremely important to many working families in town.
- After discussion, Jesse made a motion to approve building a plan, budget and staff to help the school to organize a program, however, if at next meeting the committee feels that a proper plan, budget and staffing is not in place, that we would revoke the Recreation Committees willingness to participate in this program. Dan seconded. The vote passed 3 to 1.

Topic 5: General Updates and Veterans Field

- There was a short discussion about Veterans Field and how we still would like to try and move forward without the tennis courts this time, which will significantly reduce cost. The committee agreed that we should work to get approval from the Board of Selectmen and get it on the ballot again.
- A small donation of a few hundred dollars has come in from a bank donation matching program. The funds will be allocated towards sport scholarships for families in need and fireworks.

- Steve stated that they were able to use some of the scholarship funds to help a number of families in need which was great because it led to more sport participation.
- Steve stated that he is continuing to work on advertizing to cut sport programing cost, as well as inventory, organization, and making minor repairs to our storage areas.