

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

- **In Attendance:** Scott Blewit, Charleen Osborne, Dan Hayward, Samantha Heino, Melissa Trow, Jesse Socci, Tim Berube.
 - **Guests:** Dan Whitmoyer (seeking membership), 2 residents with input on the skate park and 9 residents representing the Sunapee Pickleballers.
- **Meeting called to order by Charleen: 5:30 PM.**
- **Meeting Ended: 7:41 PM. Motioned by Tim, Seconded by Dan H.**
- **2 Votes, No policy updates took place during this meeting**
 - **Vote 1: Unanimous YES on seeking Veterans Field Phase 1 engineering. Vote 2: Unanimous YES on accepting Dan Whitmoyer into a Sunapee Recreation Committee alternate position.**
- **Attachments: 1) New layout drawings for Veterans Field Phase 1**

1) Meeting Minute Approval

- a. Meeting Minutes for August were accepted with one name spelling correction. Tim made the motion for approval, seconded by Jesse

2) Veterans Field Update

- a. Friends of Sunapee Recreation has been meeting and working on coming up with an improved layout design for Phase 1. The goal is to maximize as much of the space as possible for Recreation.
- b. Parking. Currently, the drawings include improved parking spaces during Phase 1. It was determined that parking is not the priority for this part of the project. The current drawing has roughly 22 spaces. The new drawing to fit more recreation space has roughly 11 – 12 spaces. It should be noted that the committee feels that although parking is currently a problem (with cars going up and down Rt. 11 when Veterans Field is in use), taking away a small number of spaces is not going to solve the issue. It was also noted by Charleen that when the Rt. 11 dampening project occurs, this will greatly improve parking. Scott noted that when the project is complete, folks will also be able to park at the Safety Services complex and walk down a new walkway to Veterans Field. It should also be noted that even though we are reducing the amount of spaces from the original drawings, the new drawing is the same amount of parking spaces that we have now, so we would not be losing any.
- c. The new layout includes: Tennis court with 4 pickleball courts, basketball court with 3 pickleball courts, skate park relocation, as well as a restrooms /

concession stand building. The new rendering does take into consideration the building setback requirements for Sunapee. Another drawing by a resident was viewed by the committee, however it does not meet the setback requirements.

- d. Jesse noted that he wanted to see the committee make sure that there is fencing with gates in the final rendering that clearly separate the recreation space from the parking space for safety reasons.
- e. A motion was made by Tim, seconded by Dan to move forward with the new renderings and seek engineering / professional drawings. Topic open for discussion.
- f. 2 guests voiced some opinion on the skate park. With the skate park getting moved in Phase 1, they would like to see some improvements made to the design. They stated that the skate park currently does not get a lot of use, however, it is because of a lack of updated featured as well as some concerns about safety (cracks, heaving). They stated that if we re thought our design in new skate park, that they believe it would draw a lot of use and attention. One of the guests is a professional skate park designer who has designed parks in the area as well as multiple different countries, he offered his services to the committee. They also expressed that they would like to see the skate park include features for all skill levels, which currently it does not.
- g. 9 guests representing the Sunapee Pickleballers voiced that they are very pleased with the direction that Phase 1 is going for Veterans Field, and that they are in full support of moving forward with engineering for Phase 1.
- h. Tim noted that use of Veterans Field is way up, and that he believes we will have plenty of support for moving forward with Phase 1.
- i. After discussion, the committee voted unanimously in favor of moving forward with the new drawings to get engineering and estimated costs on Phase 1 done.

3) Sunapee Board of Selectmen's Meeting

- a. Scott wanted to note to the committee that Scott Hazleton was seeking estimates on developing some of the land above the gazebo in the harbor for additional boat parking. This would be approximately 20 spaces (10 boat and trailers).
- b. It is possible that some of this new space can be also be used for recreation purposes. It was discussed to look into lining the new parking for additional pickleball courts, as well as a few other possibilities, including having additional space for the farmers market.
- c. A guest from the pickleball group expressed that they would not want to see pickleball courts there out of respect for the residents that live in close proximity, they feared it could be too noisy. Scott said that he appreciated that input and that nothing is close to final yet, we were simply just exploring possibilities, but when the time came that it would certainly be taken into consideration.

4) Fitness Trail Update

- a. AAA State of Play has informed Charleen and Celia that the equipment is shipping this Friday and will be at the Highway Department sometime next week!
- b. Once the permit by notification is done, Celia is going to go dig some test holes in the areas that the footings are needed.
- c. 2 foot deep footings are needed for the equipment. Once the permit by notification is complete, she will be seeking volunteers to help dig the footings.
- d. If everything goes according to plan, Sunapee will have a new fitness trail for use this fall at the lawn outside the Town offices!

5) Fall Sports Update

- a. Soccer is off to a fantastic start with 131 participants and \$3,830 in revenue.
 - i. PK-K has 41 participants
 - ii. 1-2 has 36 participants
 - iii. 3-4 Girls has 13 participants
 - iv. 3-4 Boys has 24 participants
 - v. 5-6 Girls has 9 participants
 - vi. 5-6 Boys has 8 participants
 - vii. Scott noted that it has been tough to fill in for the 5-6 teams. The coaches and Scott for the 5-6 group has been working each week to “call up” some of the 3-4 players to fill in. Also working with the middle school team to get players from them to fill in.
- b. Flag Football has been going great. Scott has 22 participants. It is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4.

6) Fall / Winter Program Update

- a. Sunapee Pumpkin People already has a number of participants. They will be displayed Columbus Day Weekend to Halloween. Free Program!
- b. Pumpkin Carving Contest will be held on Veterans Field on 10/16 at 10:30 AM.
- c. Turkey Trot sponsors are rolling in, will be doing a staggered start again (COVID).
- d. Project Sunapee is doing the Haunted Harbor on 10/30
- e. Central Street Trick-or-Treating will take place on Halloween, 10/31
- f. Boot Camp is Tuesdays / Thursdays, 5:30 at the Sherburne Gym
- g. Adult Drop in Volleyball will be Fridays from 7-9 at the Sherburne Gym
- h. Women's Drop in Basketball will be Sundays at 10AM at the Sherburne Gym
- i. Scott noted that he is seeking a resident to take charge of Men's Drop in Basketball, which currently has interest but no point person
- j. Scott stated that he was looking into the possibility of hosting a winter fishing derby

7) Budget / Warrant Articles

- a. Fall Bulb Sale brought in \$750. The same company is going to be working on doing a Christmas wreath Fundraiser similar to the bulb sale.
- b. Scott was contacted by Steve Marshal, want to try and work out the budget for making proper tee boxes at the disc golf course
- c. Scott noted that Scott Hazleton was working on budgets for paving the parking lot at the beach

- d. Scott ordered 6 new paddleboards in May, they will arrive next May
- e. Warrant Article 1: Full Time Recreation Director Position
- f. Warrant Article 2: Improved storage at Dewy Field
- g. Warrant Article 3: Recreation van purchase
- h. Warrant Article 4: Establishing a Recreation Department Capitol Reserve Fund
 - i. It should be noted that the Recreation Committee feels that these Warrant Articles are needed and justified. Scott and the committee has added countless new programs that have been very successful, as well as considered even more proposals for new programs by many residents. Passing these articles would be a phenomenal step in the right direction for growing the Sunapee Recreation Department, further increasing what it already offers to residents and their guests.
 - ii. It was discussed on how we want to get the word out about these articles (mailings, postcards, posters and info in public places...). It was determined that a mailing would be too costly, but could look into other costs.

8) New Membership

- a. Dan Whitmoyer is present at the meeting and has expressed interest in joining the committee. After discussion Dan was accepted onto the committee as an alternate (only position currently open). He was asked to fill out the volunteer form for the town.

9) Other / General Updates

- a. Looking ahead to summer, Summer Fest is going to be happening on 6/25/22. This will include vendors, inflatables, live music, touch a truck, and refreshments. This will be a ticketed event. Scott stated that he already has \$5,000 in sponsorships for the event.
- b. Charleen stated that her son is currently working on his Eagle project to improve / add to some trails in town. He is going to be going in front of the select board soon. He also has been working with conservation, something that the Recreation Committee would like to be able to do more of as they are needed for various projects.
- c. There was some discussion about how we are handling COVID, particularly masking. Scott stated that we are going to continue to follow guidance that comes down from various sources, but the choice was ultimately ours. Samantha stated that we simply want to make sure that we are making an educated decision for our town and not just following what others are doing. Scott stated that there currently has not been any issues with the current policy for summer sports (mask voluntary), so we will continue with that unless something comes up.
- d. The committee will most likely be putting out a communication soon for donations of gently used equipment. We are particularly looking for paddleboards and other water craft, skates and snowshoes. It has been difficult to get these items with COVID. If anyone has these items that they want to donate, please contact Scott.