

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

- **In Attendance: Steve Bourque, Charleen Osborne, Jesse Socci, Dan Whitmoyer, Megan Oxland (6:11pm), and Tim Berube (6:11pm)**
 - **Guests: Shannon Martinez: Sunapee Town Manager**
- **Meeting called to order by Charleen at 5:43PM**
- **Meeting Ended: 7:47PM Motion made by Tim, Seconded by Megan**
- **One vote and no policy updates took place during this meeting. The vote is highlighted below.**

Topic 1: Meeting Minutes and Membership

- All outstanding meeting minutes, including those tabled from past meetings and the backlogged 2020 ones have all been unanimously accepted.
- Dan Hayward and Mellissa Trow have terms that have expired. They have both decided not to seek another term. The committee thanks them both for their time and effort over the years.
- Dan Whitmoyer and Samantha Henio, both currently alternates, have expressed interest in becoming full time committee members, but still need to go before the Board of Selectmen to officially be elevated to full time status.

Topic 2: Veteran's Field Update

- Charleen started off the discussion by recapping the vote. We did get a large turnout of voters that were in favor of improving the conditions down on Veteran's Field, however it was not enough to pass the vote. Charleen stated that anyone who gave her feedback said that they would love to see the project happen, but it was just too much financially at this time.
- The committee members all seem to be in agreement that this is something that we should continue to explore since the vote was close, and since we do have a decent amount of support.
- The discussion included some possible avenues to explore, for example scaling down phase one and breaking it up into 2 separate phases, and also the possibility of Friends of Sunapee Recreation working to privately fundraise for the project.
- An idea was put forward about the possibility of conducting a survey to get a deeper understanding of what the community is looking to gain with this project.
- Both Steve and Jesse feel that we may lose a lot of our support by cutting back on the project, as many of the upgrades directly impact the largest group supporting us which is the Sunapee Pickleballers.

- Post discussion, it was decided that we should all take some time to think on this project and any next steps moving forward, then re-group and share ideas – possibly calling an additional meeting just to discuss this topic.
- The committee is in agreement that anything that gets done to move forward on this project, whether that be this year or in years to come, we should complete any final plans with plenty of time prior to the March vote to allow us to be able to work in conjunction with and present a final plan to the Board of Selectmen. In doing that, we hope that we can have their approval for the vote, which may also attract more voters.

Topic 3: Summer Camp

- Camp is starting to take shape and details are almost all in order.
- Steve stated that they plan on having details about camp ready to go out to the public by Friday.
- Staffing is looking good to date – Steve stated that he is currently more concerned about the numbers for beach staff as opposed to the staff numbers for Summer Camp.

Topic 4: Easter Egg Hunt

- The Children's Egg Hunt is scheduled to take place this Saturday.
- We are expecting anywhere from 20-25 participants, maybe more.
- Sunapee Police possibly going to help out by putting the details for the Egg Hunt on the road info board – the board is currently in repairs and may not be available in time, but if it is available they will put it out.
- Steve also going to look into getting the info up on the letter board that is on the gym.
- Need roughly 5 volunteers to run the event, Steve thinks that we may have it covered.
- Eggs are all set and ready to go for the event. Steve also donated funds of his own to purchase larger eggs to hide / provide as prizes.

Topic 6: Spring Sports Update

- Softball ages 9-12 have been combined to one team
- Large turnout for T-Ball this season, split into 3-4 and 5-6 age groups
- Baseball has 2 teams each for Rookie, and Minor Leagues, as well as 1 Majors Team
- There was brief discussion in regards to who should attend the league meetings. It was concluded that it would be best for Steve to be the representative at these meetings.
- There has been some concerns about the condition and safety of the current equipment that we have for spring sports. Steve has addressed these issues and has ordered new equipment. Some of this equipment is 20+ years old, so Sunapee has definitely gotten their monies worth out of it. Steve has also stated that he ordered more speedy-dry for the fields.
- Uniforms are going to be gone through and organized this week. Much of our uniform supply, just like the old equipment is more than at the end of its useful life. There was discussion about possibly having sponsors for the uniforms in the future so that it is at little to no cost to us, and the kids can keep them year after year. This serves as a great keepsake, as well as allows us to make sure our uniforms are always new, that we

always have the correct sizing, and that all the uniforms for each team are not miss-matched.

- Track & Field is going to start in a few weeks. There was some questions as to if kids could play both baseball / softball and track. Steve indicated that he does not seem to think it will work because most of the kids that were signed up for both last year couldn't make it to one or the other. They could technically do both and just show up to the track meet, however it is not recommended.
- Due to the added expenditure of equipment and other items, we will most likely lose money on spring sport operation. Steve noted that this equipment should only be an every few year expense and should hopefully not be something that will hurt us next season.

Topic 7: "Events Committee", 4th of July and Administrative Discussion

- There was brief discussion about if the 4th of July parade is still a Recreation sponsored event. There are committee members that believe it was passed off to the Fire Association many years ago. It was supposedly returned to the supervision of the Recreation Committee, however this was never voted on or discussed at any of our meetings. After discussion, the committee learned from Steve and Shannon that there is another volunteer based committee in town that is willing to possibly lend a hand in planning this event. The parade is not something that the committee wants to ignore, however being a just a group of volunteers that are stretched thin for time, we cannot make any promises that it can be pulled off. It may just be fireworks for this season. Tim made a motion that the Recreation Committee will do what it can to support this other volunteer committee in the organization of the parade for the 2022 4th of July. Megan seconded this motion, all are in favor.
- There was discussion surrounding the possibility of forming an Events Committee in town to support the events that surround the 4th of July, and possibly other events as well. A question posed as to if this would be a separate committee, or a sub-committee of Recreation, and the thought at the moment is that it would fall under Recreation. No one seems to be opposed to the idea, and the possibility has been tabled at the moment until more information / discussion can be had.
- The committee had a discussion surrounding the other vote that was on the ballot this past March, which was the full time directors position. There is a lot of disappointment in the room. The committee believes that the town voters are not really sure the amount of time / effort that goes into planning these events, and they really want the events but don't want the full time person. The committee is in agreement that we as a small group of volunteers can't possibly pull off all these events.
- There was discussion about cancelling some of our events, to make sure that our signature events all run smoothly and don't feel downgraded. The committee seems to be in agreement that this is a strong possibility.
- Jesse mentioned that we really need to make two separate lists at this point, one list featuring our departments main event items that we continue to put forward during this

transition period, and the other list for when a more solid structure is put into place. He suggested that Veterans Field and the full time director be put on the list for later.

- There was some suggestion / discussion surrounding budgets, and what exactly is occurring at the moment. Steve stated that he is currently keeping track of everything for separate events. It is going to take a full years cycle of events to be able to have a full picture, and start to have discussions about making adjustments to event pricing. It was suggested to be able to have access to this information at meetings so that we as committee members can make more informed recommendations for the department.
- There was also discussion about how we want the structure of the committee to look. Even though we are still only limited to a part time person – is it possible to have full time interns with that person to take some things off of their plate, which would free up some of their time to focus on other items.