



Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on Wednesday, June 14th, 2023
Blackburn Hall - 6:00 p.m.

Recreation Committee Present

Regular Members

Present

- Joe Grant, *Chair*
- Rich McCarthy, *Vice-Chair*
- Jeff Hutnick
- Michael McGrath
- Doug Shea

Not Present

Associate Members

Present

- Bobby Boyda
- Brad Hickey

Not Present

Josh Walther

Staff Present

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*
- Lauren Antonetti, *Assistant Recreation Director*

Call to Order

- Chair Grant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

New Business

Patriot Flag Football Tax Exemption Status Update

There was some discussion by the Committee regarding the field permit fees that should be assessed by groups not categorized as "Private". Director Croak provided the Committee with a document outlining in detail 2022 field usage for each group that rented the synthetic turf fields throughout the year. The document not only provided the total number of hours for each group, but also the total amount in field fees that were collected from each group.

After some discussion by the Committee, it was decided that groups must pay the private rental fee if they cannot provide formal non-profit documentation, or if their organization's participants for that season are less than 75% Walpole residents.

- On a motion made by Vice-Chair McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Shea, the Committee voted 4-0-1 to require that, effective Spring 2024, organizations must pay the Private field permit fee if they cannot provide Non-Profit documentation or if their season's participants are less than 75% Walpole residents.

Minutes

- On a motion made by Mr. Shea, seconded by Vice-Chair McCarthy, the Committee voted 4-0-1 to approve the May 10th, 2023 meeting minutes.

Director's Report

S.M. Lorusso & Sons Athletic Field Complex - Baseball Field Fencing

Some complaints have been received regarding foul balls landing in the playground area at the S.M. Lorusso & Sons Athletic Field Complex. Director Croak noted that the Department of Public Works is aware of the issue, and is researching potential solutions.

Pickleball Court Update

Director Croak provided a brief update on the Pickleball courts that have been constructed at the new field complex. He noted that usage will increase over time, but that the department does not currently formally issue permits for the courts.

Summer Programs / Pools

Summer program registration is underway and most weeks at Summer on Stone and Walpole Woods are at capacity. There are a lot of new faces to the Department's seasonal staff, in addition to many returning staff members. Pool preparation is nearly complete, with final inspection taking place this week. The anticipated opening date is Saturday, June 17th.

Capital Items

Director Croak gave a brief overview of the various capital budget requests for the Department. Requests include funding on behalf of the 300th Anniversary Committee, funding for Blackburn Hall Improvements, Jarvis Farm Improvements, Downtown Recreation Elements, and Design and Construction Services for the Pools. The Town Administrator's final recommendation is to be determined, and the Capital Budget Committee will be meeting in August for review.

Adjournment

- On a motion made by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Shea, the Committee voted 5-0-0 to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.