



**Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on March 13, 2019
Blackburn Hall - 5:30 p.m.
30 Stone Street - Walpole, MA 02081**

Recreation Committee

Regular Members

Present

- Joseph Grant, *Chairman*
- Richard McCarthy
- Michael McGrath

Not Present

William Buckley, *Vice-Chairman*
Annelise Fair

Associate Members

Present

- Jeffrey Hutnick

Not Present

Lorraine Dundon
Umesh Kumar

Recreation Staff

Present

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*
- Arielle Carney, *Assistant Recreation Director*
- Robert Leblanc, *Superintendent Highway/Parks/Cemeteries*
- Jim Thomas, *Parks Foreman*

Appointments

5:30 p.m. - Walpole Girls Softball Association

- Members from Walpole Girls Softball Association were not in attendance.

Call to Order

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Director's Report

Friends of St. Patrick Luncheon

- Director Croak mentioned that the Friends of St. Patrick honored the Walpole Co-operative Bank as their "Person of the Year". Walpole Co-Operative Bank chose the Smiling Eyes Scholarship Fund as one of the charities that would be receiving a generous donation in their name. On behalf of the Smiling Eyes Subcommittee, Director Croak was on-hand to receive the check.

Spring Egg Hunt

- The Annual Spring Egg Hunt is taking place this year on March 30, 2019. The Department decided to, once again, hold the event indoors at Walpole High School. There are four time slots this year to help accommodate parents with children of all ages.

Program Registration / News

- Session 1 of 2019 Spring Recreation programming opens up on March 25. Director Croak gave a brief update on some of the registration numbers.

Morning at **Little Rec'ers** are full for the entire summer. There are sporadic afternoons still available at this point. | Registration numbers for **Walpole Woods** are higher than they were at this time last year. | As more details are finalized, registration for the **sports clinics and camps** will open up. The goal of the Department is to have all program registration open by the end of May. Director Croak mentioned that he is currently in the process of working with Chris Sullivan, Walpole High School Varsity Football Coach, on the creation of a summer football clinic for athletes in grades 2-8. | Most time slots for **Saturday T-Ball**, which begins on Saturday, April 27, have already filled.

Recreation Staffing

- Director Croak mentioned that the summer staff hiring process is well underway, starting with interviews last week. Interviews will continue through April Vacation. Depending on the amount of applications received, job offers will then be extended to qualified applicants. Employee paperwork will be handed out and collected by the Recreation Department office through the month of May.

Director Croak mentioned that the vacant full-time Recreation Coordinator position has been posted, with a deadline of March, 19. Interviews will then begin. If an applicant is chosen to fill the position, the Department anticipates a start date in mid-April.

Recreation Committee Term Update

- Director Croak mentioned to the Committee that there are various members who are up for re-appointment at the end of the month.

Jarvis Farm Swimming

- The Committee was informed the proposed pilot program for public swimming at Jarvis Farm this summer was brought before the Sewer & Water Commissioners at their most recent meeting on Monday, March 11. Director Croak stated that at this meeting, it was favorably voted that the Recreation Department will no longer be paying 20% of the Walpole Woods profit to the Sewer & Water Commission. In lieu of this payment, the Recreation Department will now be responsible for paying for the treatment of the pond, the cost of which is roughly the same amount as the 20% profit from Walpole Woods.

New Business

- None

Old Business

A. Route 1A Fields Project

- Chairman Grant gave the Committee an update on the meeting that occurred prior to the most recent Planning Board meeting, with representatives from the various youth leagues in town. This meeting gave those representatives a chance to ask a few more questions about the Route 1A Fields Project.

Mr. McCarthy attended the Planning Board meeting that followed this meeting. He informed the Committee that many questions were asked, including those involving the impact to nearby neighborhoods with regard to stormwater runoff from the fields, traffic safety on Route 1A with regard to the speed limit, and also questions about security with the proximity of the athletic complex to MCI Cedar-Junction.

Bob Leblanc, the Superintendent of Highway/Parks/Cemeteries for the Town of Walpole, provided the Committee with a brief update on the maintenance of the fields, as the town enters into the spring athletic season. He mentioned that he will continue working hand-in-hand with the Recreation Department to distribute a "Daily Field Status" report, in order to keep the various leagues in town of any potential field closures, due to inclement weather or issues with regard to field conditions. The addition of new equipment, including a plow, tractor, and core aerator will enable the Parks Department to perform more in-house operations, which will increase efficiency on day-to-day tasks.

Public Comment

- Doug Shea, *Finance Committee*

Mr. Shea stated that he personally feels optimistic that the Route 1A Fields Project will move through the Finance Committee successfully. With that being said, he personally has concerns about the impact the project may have on future bonding. From a resident's perspective, he'd love to see more buy-in from the public, with regard to support of this project. If the project is successful, he'd like to see various athletic groups hosting/coordinating fundraisers to contribute to offset some of the costs of the project.

Minutes

- On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. McGrath, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes from the February 13 meeting.

Adjournment

- On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. McGrath, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.