



**Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on June 9th, 2020
via Zoom Conference Call - 6:00 p.m**

Recreation Committee Present

Regular Members

Present

- Joseph Grant, *Chairperson*
- William Buckley, *Vice-Chairperson*
- Richard McCarthy
- Michael McGrath

Not Present

Annelise Fair

Associate Members

Present

- Lorraine Dundon
- Brad Hickey
- Jeffrey Hutnick
- Douglas Shea

Staff Present

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*
- Arielle Carney, *Assistant Recreation Director*
- Jim Johnson, *Town Administrator*
- Patrick Shield, *Assistant Town Administrator*

Call to Order

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

New Business

A. Recreation Department Summer Proposal

- **Pandemaniacs**

Assistant Director Carney provided the Committee with an update on the revised summer day program that abides by current State guidelines for COVID-19.

The new program, called *Pandemaniacs*, will take place exclusively outdoors on Stone Field with indoor activity only happening in the event of inclement weather or in an emergency. No programs will

occur at Jarvis Farm this summer, due to social distancing limitations and minimum square footage guidelines issued by the State. The program will run 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for six consecutive weeks, starting on July 6th, and will be limited to 44 participants per day. All participants must be registered for the entire week. Single day options are not allowed this summer. Registration will be released in two-week increments to give all families an equal opportunity to register.

- On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. McGrath, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the Recreation Department summer program proposal.

B. Recreation Department Summer Pool Proposal

- Pools

Director Croak presented the Committee with a proposal that outlines how the department will safely and financially open the Town Pools for summer of 2020. Director Croak mentioned that due to current guidelines, pool capacity is limited to 60%. Social distancing will still be required while visiting the town pools. This includes the pool deck, restroom areas, as well as in the water.

The current proposal divides the pools into two-hour time block reservations that would require pre-registration at \$20 per family (up to four members). Given the current circumstances, Director Croak mentioned that the demand for such a service is unknown at this time.

Various members of the Committee had some comments and questions about the proposal. Mr. Shea asked what adjustments would be made if there is not enough demand to cover operational costs. Director Croak said that all avenues would be considered, including a reduction in hours and/or staffing, an increase in fees, or the potential to close the pools entirely. Mr. Hickey inquired about how “plots” would be divided up and assigned to families. Director Croak stated that the areas have been divided up based on the total capacity of each pool and then divided by four. This gave the total number of available “plots”. Each plot was then spaced to allow for adequate social distancing between each plot. Families would pick their own plot as they arrive. Mr. Shea asked if restrooms would be available for use during the time blocks. Director Croak replied that they would, in fact, be available for use. The entire facility would be sanitized and cleaned during a 30-minute window of time between blocks in which members of the public would be required to leave the facility.

Vice-Chairperson Buckley proposed that the Committee postpone the vote on the pools, as he would like to see a survey sent out to members of the community to accurately gauge their overall interest in visiting the pool this summer and their willingness to pay each day of attendance. He would also like to wait and see if neighboring towns make decisions on their 2020 swim season, as a reference point.

- On a motion made by Vice-Chairperson Buckley, seconded by Mr. McGrath, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to postpone voting on a pool proposal until June 16th.

Public Comment

- N/A

Adjournment

- On a motion made by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Buckley, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.