



**Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on February 12th, 2020
Blackburn Hall - 6:30 p.m
30 Stone Street - Walpole, MA 02081**

Recreation Committee Present

Regular Members

Present

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

Not Present

William Buckley, *Vice-Chairman*

Associate Members

Present

- Jeffrey Hutnick
- Douglas Shea
- Brad Hickey

Not Present

Lorraine Dundon
Umesh Kumar

Staff Present

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*
- Arielle Carney, *Assistant Recreation Director*

Call to Order

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Director's Report

A. Department Update

- Spring Programming

Director Croak mentioned that registration for spring programming will open up on Monday, February 24th, with programming beginning a month later on March 23rd. There are a couple of programs of note that were brought to the attention of the Committee. *English as a Second Language* is a new offering for the department this spring. Director Croak noted that the department is also partnering up with Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary to offer a Junior Conservation Commissioner program. Registration for remaining summer programs will be open by mid-April, with more updates released to the public as program details are finalized.

- FY21 Budget

The Recreation Department's FY21 budget was presented to the Finance Committee on Thursday, February 6th. There were no questions with regard to the Recreation budget, however, the final vote is anticipated to take place on Thursday, February 13th when the Finance Committee is presented with the Parks Department's budget.

- Summer Hiring

Director Croak created a timeline that was shared with the Human Resources Administrator in order to streamline and organize important dates leading up to busy summer season.

- Positions were posted on February 3rd and applications will be collected through March 8th.
- Interviews will be coordinated and scheduled for next two weeks and will be held from March 23rd through April 26th, with jobs offered during that period.
- All wage requests and *New Hire* paperwork will be sent to Town Hall during the first week of June, which will allow all employees to be hired and appropriately prepared for trainings during the month of June.

B. Saturday T-Ball (Ages 6 & 7)

- In early December, Director Croak met with the new leadership for Little League to introduce the new leadership to the department, go over the field permitting process, etc. Towards the end of the meeting, Walpole Little League President, Steve McMann, pitched a proposal he had in mind for the future of Saturday T-Ball and Walpole Little League. He said that he would like to see the quality improved for the Saturday T-Ball program, with regard to the lack of skill-work for the older kids. He wanted to see if the Recreation Department would be interested in collaborating with Little League for ages 6 & 7. Director Croak requested a formal proposal that would outline what his vision was and that they would regroup after the new year.

Both Chairman Grant and Director Croak met with Walpole Little representatives again in mid-January, shortly after the January 8th Recreation Committee Meeting. It was decided at that meeting that the weekly structure of the Saturday T-Ball program will be altered to include more instruction and skill-based stations, with assistance from coaches involved in the Walpole Little League organization. At the conclusion of the season, Director Croak will meet with the leadership of Walpole Little League to evaluate the season and make changes for future seasons accordingly.

New Business

- Mr. McGrath mentioned that he had been in discussions with Town Administration to explore the possibility of adding a link on the Town of Walpole website, where customers paying their tax bills could make a donation to the Smiling Eyes Scholarship program. Director Croak stated that, at some point in the next year or so, he would like to add a similar feature to the Recreation Department's website, where a donation feature would appear during the checkout process.

Old Business

A. Registration/Website Platform

- Director Croak noted that talks are ongoing with CivicRec on the possibility of changing website registration and field scheduling platforms. He has high hopes that the CivicRec platform can streamline field scheduling, scholarship management, and day-to-day ease of use for Recreation Department customers. A representative from CivicRec may present at a future Recreation Committee meeting.

Minutes

- On a motion made by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Ms. Fair, the Committee voted 3-0-1 to approve the meeting minutes from the January 8th, 2020 meeting.

Public Comment

- Mr. McCarthy mentioned that at the recent Valentine's Day Craft program at the Walpole Cooperative South Street Center, there were 150 children and seniors who created Valentine's Day cards with each other. The plan is for these cards to be brought to New Pond Village and distributed to the residents. Director Croak mentioned that future collaborative efforts between the Recreation Department and the Council on Aging will continue.

Adjournment

- On a motion made by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.