



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

Recreation Committee

Regular Members

Present

- Joseph Grant, *Chairman*
- William Buckley, *Vice-Chairman*
- Richard McCarthy
- Anneliese Fair

Not Present

Michael McGrath

Associate Members

Present

- Jeffrey Hutnick

Not Present

Lorraine Dundon
Robert Taglienti
Umesh Kumar

Staff

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*
- Arielle Carney, *Assistant Director*
- Cheryl Cavanaugh, *Aquatics Director*

Call to Order

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

New Business

On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Vice-Chairman Buckley, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to change the Jarvis Farm Weekend Swimming Pilot Program presentation to the first order of business.

- ***Jarvis Farm Weekend Swimming Pilot Program Proposal***

Director Croak provided the Recreation Committee with an update on the Jarvis Farm Swimming Survey that was sent out to roughly 7,000 email addresses. Of the 750+ individuals who responded, about 80% of respondents noted that they would be interested in having public swimming at Jarvis Farm

Director Croak read through the proposal for the Committee members. Mr. Hutnick brought up the discussion of establishing and posting a set of policies for the beach and pond area in the event that the swimming proposal is approved. Director Croak anticipates the policies would closely mirror the Department's existing policies in place for the Town pools, with added language from the Health Director, as needed.

Ms. Fair asked Cheryl Cavanaugh, the Aquatics Director, if she believed that this was a good idea with regard to public safety. Ms. Cavanaugh stated that she would want the pond floor to be cleaned more thoroughly, and the sediment cleaned from the sand that contributes to poor water clarity. To err on the side of caution, Ms. Cavanaugh wants smaller ratios with regard to public swimming at the pond, in comparison to what the pools currently operate at - one lifeguard for every 20 swimmers. Currently, at the Walpole Woods summer program, the ratio never exceeds five lifeguards for every 20 swimmers. Ms. Cavanaugh would be comfortable with a 10:1 ratio for public swimming at Jarvis Farm, but will work closely with the Health Director's direction, as needed.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Vice-Chairman Buckley, the Committee voted 3-1-0 to approve the Jarvis Farm Weekend Swimming Pilot Program proposal, with the stipulation that final lifeguard ratios are agreed upon by Aquatics Director and the Health Director.

Old Business

- None

Director's Report

- Director Croak notified the Committee that as of Friday, February 8, Program Coordinator Brad Webber is no longer an employee of the Walpole Recreation Department. He has chosen to explore other employment opportunities in another field.
- Spring registration opens on Monday, February 25. The Department will be running multiple courses over at the new Walpole Co-Operative Bank South Street Center to encourage more intergenerational programs.

Public Comment

- William Carroll stated that he believes the survey for the Jarvis Farm Weekend Swimming Pilot Program should have been sent out to the entire town, not just Recreation Department customers. Mr. Carroll stated that he voiced his concern to Town Administrator James Johnson.

Mr. Carroll also wanted to address the funding source for this project. Chairman Grant asked Mr. Carroll to please abstain from discussion about a funding source as this point in the process. Chairman Grant informed Mr. Carroll that the Department planned on implementing a \$5 per person per day fee to begin with, and that if additional funding is needed, that will be addressed at a later date.

Mr. Carroll asked Ms. Cavanaugh why the Recreation Department isn't utilizing the same ratios used by the Sharon Country Day Camp for over 53 years. Ms. Cavanaugh stated that Sharon Country Day was a private entity, and there are much more strict regulations that the Department, as a municipality, must abide by, due to an increase in safety regulations by the State of Massachusetts.

Minutes

- On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Vice-Chairman Buckley, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes from the January 13 meeting.

Adjournment

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