



Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on Wednesday, March 17th, 2021
via Zoom conference call - 6:30 p.m.

Recreation Committee Present

Regular Members

Present

- Richard McCarthy, *Chair*
- Joseph Grant, *Vice-Chair*
- William Buckley

Not Present

Annelise Fair
Michael McGrath

Associate Members

Present

- Lorraine Dundon*
- Brad Hickey
- Doug Shea

Not Present

Jeff Hutnick

** Per Article VI, §B of the Recreation Committee Policies & Procedures - due to the absence of a quorum, Ms. Dundon was assigned voting power by Chair McCarthy.*

Staff Present

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*

Public Present

- Samantha Simons, *Communication and Journalism Student - UMass Amherst*

Call to Order

Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Director's Report

Department Update

- Saturday T-Ball

Director Croak gave a brief update on the Saturday T-Ball program. Recreation Coordinator, Rich Lamoury is currently finalizing the details of the program that's scheduled to start up on May 8th - June 19th, skipping Memorial Day Weekend. Registration is scheduled to go live in the first week or two of April. Advertising will start up in early April, soliciting parent volunteers to help coach. As is the case with similar Saturday sports programs, Rich is continuing the model that was created for the Saturday Soccer program, which heavily relies on parent volunteers, and focuses more on skill-based curriculum on a week-to-week basis. Director Croak notes that he anticipates that this program will fill up very quickly. More space *is* available than previous Saturday programs, however, as this program takes place outdoors.

- Summer on Stone

Director Croak updated the Committee that there has been a name change for the Department's summer program, as we received an email from a member of the community that took offense to the *Pandemaniacs* name. The program will now be known as *Summer on Stone*. Additionally, after discussions with the Health Department, the Department has decided to move forward with a program structure that is similar to last year, rather than offering the Walpole Woods and Little Rec's programs. Utilizing the blueprint from last summer, Director Croak states that the Department is very comfortable moving forward in this direction.

- Summer Basketball

Recreation Coordinator, Rich Lamoury, is currently in talks with Walpole High School Varsity Boys Basketball coach, Oliver Vil, on bringing "Summer Basketball" back to the department. Director Croak states that numbers for summer basketball clinics have been quite low the past couple of years, due to other third-party vendors. The plan is to restructure the program to a "league" style of play, rather than full instruction. The hope is that this structure will garner more interest from kids that just "want to play with their friends" in a laid-back setting. There have been requests from members of our community to bring something like this to the town, so this gives the Department an opportunity to accommodate those requests.

- **Challenger Soccer Camp & RBI Baseball Academy**

Dates for Challenger Soccer and RBI Baseball Academy are all set and ready to go. The Department is just waiting to see if Walpole Public Schools will use of the gym at Bird Middle School. Director Croak notes that without the use of a gym or indoor facility, the Department may be unable to run these programs in their current structure. He hopes to hear from the School Department in the next month or so on gym availability.

- **Pools**

The Department is starting the plans to move forward with opening the public pools this summer. The Department is hoping to offer swimming lessons this summer, in addition to pool rentals, but health guidelines and restrictions will dictate what can and cannot be done. More information will be available in the few months, prior to the summer season.

- **Smiling Eyes**

Smiling Eyes donations from members of our community continue to come in. The Department has received just over \$200 since the previous Recreation Committee meeting in January. Close to \$500 has been received since the launch of the new website back in November of 2020.

Old Business

Athletic Fields Update

- **Spring Field Permit Applications**

All spring field permits have been received. Initial deposit was due last week, permits distributed, and most deposits have been received to date. Remaining balances are due April 12th. We've received many requests for private rentals for use of the new fields at the South Walpole Community Athletic Complex. At this time, they are mostly booked through early June, with little pockets of time here and there. We're working through some final scheduling changes with Youth Lacrosse and Youth Soccer to juggle and offset some last minute hiccups from the HS schedule that we received. Hopefully that will all be sorted out in the next week or two.

- **South Walpole Community Athletic Complex**

Director Croak gave his ongoing update on the South Walpole Community Athletic Complex. There was some discussion that took place regarding logistics for how security is going to be handled for the complex. Director Croak outlined the current security measures in place with regard to complex security. Discussions are ongoing with Town Administration to find the best solution for all parties involved.

New Business

- N/A

Minutes

- On a motion made by Vice-Chair Grant, seconded by Ms. Dundon*, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes from the January 13th, 2021 meeting.

** Per Article VI, §B of the Recreation Committee Policies & Procedures - due to the absence of a quorum, Ms. Dundon was assigned voting power by Chair McCarthy.*

Public Comment

- Samantha Simons, a current Communication and Journalism student at UMass Amherst, and a 2019 graduate from Walpole High was in attendance to observe the Committee Meeting for a college journalism assignment.

Adjournment

- On a motion made by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Vice-Chair Grant, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.