



**Walpole Recreation Committee  
Meeting Held on September 11, 2019  
Blackburn Hall - 6:00 p.m.  
30 Stone Street - Walpole, MA 02081**

**Recreation Committee**

***Regular Members***

Present

- Joseph Grant, *Chairman*
- William Buckley, *Vice-Chairman*
- Annelise Fair
- Michael McGrath

Not Present

Richard McCarthy

***Associate Members***

Present

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

Not Present

Umesh Kumar

**Staff Present**

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*

**Call to Order**

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

## **Director's Report**

### ***Jarvis Farm Public Swimming Pilot***

- Director Croak gave the Committee a summary of the Public Swimming Pilot that was held at Jarvis Farm over the course of four days throughout the month of July.

Multiple Committee members reiterated that they expressed safety concerns that they had *prior* to the beginning of the pilot program taking place.

Over the course of the two weekends where public swimming was offered, due to a lack of attendance by the public, the Department lost over \$4,500 in payroll and other supplies needed to safely offer this program. At this time, the Department will not be pursuing public swimming at Jarvis Farm in the future.

### ***Pool Attendance***

- During the month of August, the Department began manually recording *unique* visitors at each pool on an hourly-basis to keep track of attendance. Historically, with regard to the number of patrons at the pools, data has not been tracked in an official capacity.

Director Croak gave an overview of the process and method used for compiling the data. Multiple variables were taken into consideration in order to accurately record why attendance could potentially be below or above average on any given day. The information gathered was valuable in order to plan accordingly in the future for weeks that may be busier or to potentially adjust the hours of operation in the future. In addition, this information will prove valuable when forecasting financial information.

Director Croak stated that the Department will continue to utilize this method of tracking moving forward.

### ***Summer Program Numbers***

- Director Croak gave an overview of how the summer went for three of the Department's larger programs.

He mentioned that there were multiple changes that took place at the Little Rec's program this summer. Changes in the age range and an improved staffing structure allowed for improvement in the quality of the program, despite a *slight* drop in registration numbers.

While registration numbers were slightly down at Little Rec's, the Walpole Woods summer program at Jarvis Farm thrived for the fourth year in a row, with enrollment up over 45% from last year. Director Croak made a note that in addition to increased program quality, registration numbers were somewhat higher due to the adjusted ages at Little Rec's. Many children who previously attended the Little Rec's program, were now attending a more age-appropriate program at Walpole Woods.

Summer Academy saw a 20% increase in enrollment. The Department restructured the program in order to eliminate redundant program offerings, which allowed for more programs to run overall.

#### ***DPW Appreciation Lunch***

- Director Croak made note that for the third straight year, an appreciation lunch was held for Department of Public Works employees. He mentioned that without their tireless efforts and support each and every summer, the Department would not be able to offer first-rate programming that the Community expects from the Department.

#### ***National Night Out***

- A brief overview of the success of the annual National Night Out event was given. The event continues to thrive, and is very well-received by the public. The addition of multiple food trucks this year was a great success. The Department is looking forward to continuing this event on an annual-basis.

### **New Business**

#### ***Route 1A Field Project***

- Chairman Grant gave an overview of the current proposal of the Route 1A Field project that is on the warrant for Fall Town Meeting. There was some discussion on some of the elements and details of the project, including potential fundraising efforts to improve the facility. The project is scheduled to be presented to the Finance Committee in the upcoming weeks.

At the time of the meeting, an estimate of the cost was given, as the final bids will be received later this week. Director Croak requested that the Committee votes their support on the project at the *next* meeting, prior to Town Meeting, as the final cost will be available at that point. Chairman Grant mentioned that, in *addition* to voting in October, he'd like to make a motion to vote tonight, in order to give Finance Committee an idea as to where the Recreation Committee stands with the project.

On a motion made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Vice-Chairman Buckley, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to support the Route 1A Field Project.

### ***Capital Budget***

- Director Croak gave an overview of the recent Capital Budget request that was submitted by the Department. He mentioned that future requests will be brought before the Committee prior to being submitted, however, due to the meeting schedule of the Committee, this was not possible for this recent submission.

The Committee was also briefed on the early phases of exploring construction of a “pavillion” at Jarvis Farm. Director Croak is currently working with Town Administration to explore design options. Depending on the cost of the structure, there may be a need to submit this as a capital item request. If this project is a Capital Budget request, the timeline of this project is potentially slated for fall of 2021 or spring of 2022. If the cost is favorable and the Department is able to fund this through revolving funds, the project could take place as early as spring 2020.

### ***Walpole Public Pools***

- Director Croak stated that the Department is waiting on final invoices to come through for the summer before commenting on the success of the pools over the summer.

It is the belief of Building Maintenance that they were able to identify the source of a leak in the Main Pool. A company has been contracted to come out this week to install a fiberglass liner in the main drain. The hope is that this will allow the pools to run without the need to continuously add additional water throughout the season, which should cut down on the cost of water and additional chemicals.

### **Old Business**

- None

### **Public Comment**

- None

### **Minutes**

- On a motion made by Vice-Chairman Buckley, seconded by Mr. McGrath, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes from the June 19, 2019 meeting.

### **Adjournment**

- On a motion made by Vice-Chairman Buckley, seconded by Ms. Fair, the Committee voted to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.