



**Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on November 13th, 2019
Blackburn Hall - 6:00 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*

*departed at 7:00 PM

Associate Members

Present

- Lorraine Dundon
- Jeffrey Hutnick
- Douglas Shea

Not Present

Brad Hickey
Umesh Kumar

Staff Present

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*

Call to Order

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Director's Report

A. Recreation Department Update

- Fall Programming

Director Croak mentioned that there was another month or so of fall programming. The Winter Brochure is scheduled to arrive in mailboxes this weekend, with registration opening up on Monday, November 18th. Winter programs will start up on the week of December 16th.

- Jarvis Harvest

The 5th Annual Jarvis Harvest took place on Saturday, October 12th. For the third consecutive year, the weather was uncooperative. Turnout was light, but not too bad given the weather. As mentioned at the

October meeting, Director Croak stated that the Department will be exploring the idea of pushing the event to mid/late September in order to take advantage of the nicer weather. The Department will also be exploring potentially moving the location, as parking continues to be a challenge at Jarvis Farm.

- Town Meeting

Fall Town Meeting opened up on Monday, October 21st. The Recreation Department's capital requests were approved without any discussion. Funds are now available for use for capital requests. Director Croak said the Department will be purchasing the pool vacuums at a later date during the spring. The vendor will also be contacted to schedule a time to replace the drain covers at the pools so they're up and running for the summer season on time.

- Halloween on Main

The Annual Halloween on Main event took place on Saturday, October 26th. The sheer amount of people slowed the parade down considerably, which shut down that portion of Main Street for a lot longer than both the Recreation and Police Departments had anticipated. The Recreation Department is constantly looking into adding different elements, including the possibility of adding a *Trunk-or-Treat* portion to the parade next year. This could help in getting participants through the parade portion of the event and back to Blackburn Hall.

B. Registration/website Platform

- Director Croak stated that he was approached back in May from an individual who works for *CivicRec*, which is a Recreation registration platform, similar to the *MyRec* system that the Department currently utilizes. Director Croak mentioned that the *CivicRec* representative gave a brief presentation to the Department to showcase some of its features. Some impressive features that stood out were the handling of scholarships, as well as the field scheduling portion of the platform.

With the Route 1A Field complex moving forward, the department is strongly considering switching over to this platform. One hurdle that would need to be navigated is the cost, as it's considerably higher than what the department is currently paying. Director Croak said that these features could greatly improve the efficiency in the department, as a considerable amount of time is currently spent on maintaining the Smiling Eyes scholarship program, as well as managing the schedule for the fields in town.

C. Route 1A Fields Update

- Director Croak noted that as the project gets underway, this item will remain on the agenda on a month-to-month basis in the event that any pertinent updates need to be relayed to the Committee.

New Business

A. Field Permit Policies

- Director Croak mentioned that changes will need to be made to the existing *Field Permit Policies* in order to accurately reflect any changes that will be made to the *Field Permit Application*. Existing copies of the *Field Permit Policies* were distributed to members of the Committee for their review. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

Old Business

A. *Morgan Field*

- There was some previous discussion about the possibility of removing the infield grass at Morgan Field in order to improve maintenance efforts. Director Croak mentioned to the Committee that, for the time being, the Parks Department has decided that no changes will be made to the infield at Morgan Field.

B. *Field Permit Application*

- There was some discussion with regard to changes that need to be made to the existing *Field Permit Application*. Director Croak will consider and make any necessary changes. The amended application will then be presented to the Committee for vote at a future meeting.

Minutes

- On a motion made by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Ms. Fair, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes from the October 9th 2019 meeting.

Public Comment

- None

Adjournment

- On a motion made by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Ms. Fair, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to adjourn at 7:17 PM.