



Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018
Blackburn Hall - 5:30 p.m.
30 Stone Street - Walpole, MA 02081

Recreation Committee

Regular Members

Present

- Joe Grant, *Chairman*
- Bill Buckley, *Vice Chairman**
- Mike McGrath**
- Annelise Fair

Not Present

Richard McCarthy

*arrived at 6:05 p.m.

**departed at 6:20 p.m.

Associate Members

Present

- Jeff Hutnick
- Lorraine Dundon

Not Present

Robert Taglienti

Staff Present

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*

Special Guests Present

- Various members were present for a presentation of a Cricket ground in Walpole.

Call to Order

- Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- Chairman Grant mentioned that some Committee members needed to leave prematurely. On a motion made by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Ms. Fair, the Committee voted (3-0-0) to vote on the following items out of order.
 - *FY2020 Operating Budget*
 - Communications Policy
 - October 10th Meeting Minutes

Cricket Presentation

- There was a brief presentation on the sport of Cricket and the desire for designated field space for the sport to take place in the Town of Walpole. Individuals present in support of this presentation mentioned that there are currently 50-60 Walpole children who participate in local cricket leagues and programs that take place in neighboring towns.
- The Committee had a positive reaction to this presentation and are eager to explore further. Mr. McGrath mentioned that the Department could potentially plan a weekend Intro to Cricket program in the future.
- Future conversations will take place with the Parks Department on the logistics and details of how the Town can accommodate this request.

Director's Report

Halloween Parade

- Due to high winds and torrential rain, it was decided by the Recreation Department and Town Administration to cancel our Halloween on Main event this year. All participants were given an account credit on their WalpoleRec.com account for use toward a future program. Participating businesses were given their candy to hand out throughout the week at their office.

Program Revenue Overview

- In a comparison from September 2016 - August 2017 and September 2017 - August 2018, the Department is up over 7% or around \$40,000 in gross revenue for our programs, and pools. This does not include any expenses, such as payroll or program supplies.

Upcoming Events

- *Santa is Coming to Town* is scheduled for Sunday, December 16th. Registration opens up Monday, November 19th.
- The Annual Walpole Lights Holiday House Decorating Competition is taking place again this year. This has become a town-wide favorite, and many families enjoy the tradition of following the route of houses that participate. More details and marketing to follow as we get closer to the winter season. The map of the route will be released on December 17th.

Jarvis Farm - Weekend Swimming

- Mr. Hutnick requested an update on the status of weekend swimming at Jarvis Farm in summer of 2019. Director Croak and Vice Chairman Buckley summarized the discussion that took place at fall Town Meeting. Director Croak anticipates future discussions and meetings to take place with the Sewer & Water Commissioners. The Recreation Department awaits further development and will plan accordingly when more direction is available.

New Business

FY2020 Operating Budget

- Director Croak mentioned that there were some changes based on the original attachment that was sent to the Committee for their review. The Department's overall budget request request has stayed the same.
- On a motion made by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Ms. Fair, the Committee voted (3-0-0) to approve the FY2020 Operating Budget Request.

Old Business

A. Smiling Eyes

- Director Croak mentioned that both he and Program Coordinator Lauren Antonetti attended a Multicultural Family Event for the Walpole Public Schools on Tuesday, October 13th at Bird Middle School. The Department was on-hand to answer any questions and to hand out brochures to families looking for the services and programs that the Department offers. Director Croak mentioned that there were questions on the Smiling Eyes scholarship program, and the process involved. Director Croak mentioned that the Department is looking for ways to streamline and finetune the process to aide in the execution of the management and reconciliation of the funds.
- Chairman Grant challenged the Committee to brainstorm ways to not only generate revenue, but to also potentially revamp the structure of the program altogether. Director Croak mentioned that this will be a substantial undertaking, and would like any changes to be rolled out in fall of 2019.

B. Communications Policy

- Chairman Grant mentioned that at a previous meeting, there was discussion about streamlining the policy for communications for non-Recreation groups. He mentioned that there was a draft set of guidelines that are currently being used, but were never reviewed by the Committee. The guidelines were presented to the Committee, with some feedback from the members.
- Mr. Hutnick commented on bullet point five which states, *"Information will be included on a first-come, first-serve basis. If the Bulletin is full by the time your request is considered, it will be included in the following week's Community Bulletin."* He suggested that if the Bulletin is "full", we should send the information back to the submitting group, stating that if they would like to be reconsidered, please resubmit for the following Bulletin. Director Croak mentioned that this is currently the practice, and that most groups submit their information far in advance of their event if the event is date-sensitive. He noted that further clarification will be added to the end of that particular bullet point description.
- Mr. Hutnick would like a disclaimer added to the end of the document that states that the Recreation Department has no connection to any aforementioned groups or information that is disseminated. For additional information, please contact the group directly.
- Mr. McGrath would like additional language that states that the Recreation Committee reviews all policies on a periodic basis and reserves right to change policies, as needed.
- On a motion made by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Ms. Fair, the Committee voted (3-0-0) to approve the Communications Policy.

Other

- Mr. Hutnick expressed the desire to revisit the discussion from a previous meeting of an "expo" of sorts where all youth sports leagues in town can come together on one or two nights throughout the year to hand out flyers, conduct registration, answer questions, etc.

Public Comment

- None

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 10th meeting.

Adjournment

- On a motion made by Vice Chairman Buckley, seconded by Ms. Fair, the Committee voted (3-0-0) to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.