



**Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on April 4, 2018
Blackburn Hall - 7:00 p.m.
30 Stone Street - Walpole, MA 02081**

Recreation Committee Present:

- *Regular Members* - Rich McCarthy, Bill Buckley, Joe Grant, Mike McGrath
- *Associate Members* - Jeff Hutnick, Robert Taglienti

Staff Present:

- *Recreation Director* - Brendan Croak
- *Assistant Recreation Director* - Arielle Carney

Call to Order:

Chairman McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Reorganization:

There was discussion on if any members would like to run for Chairman. Mr. Grant stated that he wished to run. Chairman McCarthy stated his intention to run for re-election. suggested that the vote take place at the next meeting until all Regular Members were present to participate in the vote. He recommends that the next agenda included the specific action item that a vote for reorganization will take place.

Director's Report:

- A. Previous Month(s) at the Recreation Department
The Director reviewed the Recreation Department spring offerings, and the timeline for the Spring Preview. Registration numbers for programs are average compared to 2017 figures. This year the Department staggered the summer registration window in two waves. This enabled the Department to release all the information that was ready as of March 19, with remaining program information to be released on April 30.

2018 Egg Hunt Recap - 215 children participated this year at the indoor location of Walpole High School. The location was changed due to recent snowstorms. The event was an overall success, and ran very smoothly, despite being held indoors. The indoor location provided more control over the flow of the event.

B. Ongoing/upcoming Recreation Programs and Activities

Various program highlights and general discussion/overview

- Pony Pals club
- Walpole Media partnership
- Musical Theater
- Hip-Hop
- Ballroom Dancing
- Dog Obedience with Golden Opportunities

The low-turnout for the Middle School Dances continues. Next Activity Night is planned for May 4.

Working Mom's Playgroup rental of Blackburn Hall right before the March Sock Hop aided in the attendance of the Sock Hop.

Saturday T-Ball - numbers are somewhat low right now, but the Director expects that enrollment will average out by April 14, with many anticipated last-minute registrations.

C.I.T. Program Overview - over 30 applicants submitted applications for the program this year. The Assistant Recreation Director covered the progress of the Department's New CIT program. The program is for 14 and 15 year olds and will be based up at Jarvis Farm with the Walpole Woods Program. Interviews are scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. Mr. McGrath suggested looking into the idea of expanding upon the C.I.T. program and looking at a more "volunteer-based" program returning in the future. Said program would be for small projects throughout town, on an as-needed basis.

Playgroup - an additional instructor will be hired to begin assisting in running the program as an aide to instructors Shivaun Brenizer and Ro Pileski

C. Personnel Update

Arielle Carney is the new Assistant Director and we have also brought Brad Webber onboard as our newest Program Coordinator. Brad previously worked with the department as the lead Pool Maintenance Staff Member for 3 years.

Part-time staff members, Colleen O'Connor and David Moser, will help take on management of Walpole Woods this summer for day-to-day operations.

New Business

A. Spring Fields Report

The fields are currently closed due to current weather conditions. Permits have been distributed to all the user groups in town. Ongoing work to address restroom concerns at multiple field locations and some discussion took place to help brainstorm solutions. There was discussion of revamping the Field permit structure/fees for private rentals.

B. Walpole Day Planning

The Assistant Recreation Director gave an update on Walpole Day, which is set for May 12 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. On track to fill vendor market again this year. New this year will be an interactive bubble show, and stilt walkers. Returning attractions are the oversized roaming puppets. The day will kick off with the Walpole Day Parade and will include an inflatable Kidz Zone and live entertainment.

Old Business

A. Summer 2018 Program Overview & Discussion

The Director reviewed the Spring/Summer Action Plan, and informed the Committee that the Department will be rolling out *CampDocs* this summer for all health/parent packet information making the process all digital.

The Department is adding a swimming lesson option to the Little Rec'ers program this year at Center Pool

The Walpole Woods interdepartmental meeting will be taking place in the upcoming weeks to address any maintenance and property preparation needs.

The Department is currently working with Walpole Police Department to formalize an emergency action plan for the Jarvis Farm.

The Basketball programs this summer will be partnering up with Take Charge Athletics for the boys' week. Take Charge Athletics will feature the Walpole High School Boys Varsity Basketball coach, Mike Masto. Behn Basketball will return for another summer to handle the girls' week.

Junior Police Academy has already filled up and a waitlist has begun.

Summer Academy is adding a 5th day each week, and will be held at an elementary school. Details are still being finalized with instructors.

All Walpole Pools will open end of June, and the collection of paperwork for lifeguards will begin later this month.

B. Smiling Eyes Subcommittee

Donations are coming in from local businesses for the Smiling Eyes Scholarship fund. The Department would like to take a look and see if they can make the application process more streamlined, specifically with the Referral Form. Perhaps only requiring one form per family versus the existing practice of requiring one for each child. The reasoning behind this is that it becomes cumbersome for school counselors potentially receiving dozens of forms each week to complete.

- C. Recreation Committee Bylaws
Committee to review draft bylaws included in the agenda packet. Director suggested an action to approve the bylaws at the next Committee Meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Minutes:

- A. Approval of 02/28/18 Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Chairman McCarthy, second by Mr. McGrath, the Committee voted (4-0) to approve the meeting minutes February 28 Meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.