

Plaistow Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday November 10, 2021 6:30 pm Rec Office – Town Hall Annex

Called to Order: 6:39 pm

In Attendance: Kerry Patles, Patrick Buckley, Tina Dufrense, John Sherman, Leah MacKean, Bill Coye, Board of Selectmen Liaison Jennifer Gusler, Recreation Director Kristin Savage (arrived 6:58 pm), Sue Sherman (departed approx. 7:10 pm)
Guest: Jennifer Bird

Sue indicates she will need to leave early – Kerry takes over minutes at that time
Alternate John Sherman will be voting at this meeting.
Kerry introduces Jennifer Bird who has expressed interest in joining commission. This is her first meeting.

Approve Minutes

Draft minutes of October 13, 2021 meeting reviewed, no discussion
Motion to approve by Pat Second John. Passes 5-0-1

Trail Update

Pat states things are coming along well. Gate is in, brush clearing has begun.
Sam Kincaid, Eagle Scouts project was approved by the BoS; BoS requested a handrail be included on stairway. Low Shelley of SnowHawk has reflagged the trail.
Discussion ensues Re: potential for swale bridge from softball field repurposed, what's next for Phase 1 to include additional clearing and light grading. 17K from CI funds already used to date; documentation of that will be done by Jenn for Grant match purposes.

Recreation Director Report

Jenn has provided her monthly written report
Highlights include:

- SnowHawk contract review with Town Manager for 2021 work. 2022 work will be a separate contract.
- Seniors Coffee Talk going well
- Elder Affairs Turkey Train Ride, Halloween movie, Veteran card making all well received. Their next meeting is November 16, 2021.
- Facility update includes porta potty removal, Smith Field will have playground grade mulching material laid down by Commission volunteers on Thurs 11/11/21 @ 11 am, broken picnic tables at PARC removed by Highway
- Field rentals have ended for 2021. Rentals generated approx. \$ 5,800.00 in revenue.
- Fall Activities well received Toddler Trick or Treat, Kids Night Out @ library. Tween craft cancelled due to low participation, tough age group. Pumpkin Lighting in person event cancelled due to weather; virtual event went well.
- Winter Activities coming up include Nutcracker, Bright Lights, Kids Night Out @ Library, Tween Craft, Wreath Making, Senior Wreath Making, Tree Lighting, Letters to Santa, Show Us Your Lights
- Baseball/Softball registrations will begin January 1, 2022; slight fee increase
- Recreation Office Use by local groups 5 times per month; great use of space

Friends of Rec

Leah states last meeting was October 12; fundraising opportunities continue to be discussed. Pumpkin Lighting was great potential for that if not for weather. Letters to businesses will be going out Re: fundraising for softball field. FoR working on a tiered sponsorship program. Sue

indicates Rec Comm should be updated when complete so we can work with our networks for support also.

Next FoPR meeting is Monday November 15 @ 7 pm at Rec Office. Also meeting Monday November 29 @ 7 pm at Rec Office. All are welcome to attend.

Members/Alternates Needed

Commission currently has 1 vacancy for member.

Commission currently has 1 alternate.

Need for member position and additional alternates discussed. Kristin shares a lead; Jenn will follow up with them. Email blasts from town hall have included need; Rec website has it posted on home page. Word of mouth, social media are discussed as ways to attract interest also.

Open

John questions CIP submitted for 2021. Discussion ensues Re: amounts listed for softball field, projecting for future, warrant article on 2022 ballot.

Commission consensus is to request a warrant article for 30K pending updated figures from Busby. Jenn will work on updated figures; Kerry will type up proposed warrant article for approval at next meeting.

Jenn indicates a request has come in for youth league distribution; discussion ensues regarding that program. Consensus is this program does not align with the recreation philosophies; no distribution granted.

Jenn shares request from Dept of Emergency Management to check on neighbors, temporary housing in campers etc. Also, Until rates are increasing and risk for other heating methods may occur this winter as a result; please remain vigilant and safe.

Discussion ensues regarding electric rate increase impact on pump house at PARC. Councilman Electric will be inspecting per request of town manager soon; Jenn will update with findings. Jenn requests us to send along any photos from Rec programming in 2021 for use in town report.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:12 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday December 8, 2021 6:30 pm Rec Dept, Town Hall Annex on Elm St

Respectfully Submitted,
Kerry Patles