

Minutes of Warren Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on January 24, 2022 at the Warren Town Hall.

Present: Don Murphy, Director

Kirby Mullen

David Schneiderbeck

Kathleen Andreasen

Ruth Schnell

Also attending was First Selectman Greg LaCava

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Don Murphy welcomed Ruth Schnell as a new member of the Commission. He also thanked former member Zac Githens for his service on the Commission.

### REVIEW OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 22, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved on motion by Dave, seconded by Kirby.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

The Director presented a financial statement for the year to date.

### REVIEW OF PROGRAMS

Holiday on the Hill: The annual Holiday on the Hill program was reviewed. Don thanked the First Selectman Greg LaCava, Jim Schultz and the public works department for their help in getting the new town tree installed and lighted. Kirby noted the pulled pork that was served free to all was delicious. The committee agreed that next year we will include background music and staff shirts for the activities in the Community House. Kathy also suggested a “free sandwiches” sign to be sure people know they are available.

Senior activities: Don said he was disappointed in the turnout for local activities, parties. Kirby suggested perhaps we should offer transportation and Ruth agreed. Don said there is an issue with bus drivers at this time, but he and Missy Woodward, the social services director, will try to work on getting more people out.

Kennebunkport trip: Don reported there was a tremendous turnout for the trip to Maine.

Nashville trip: Don reported there is interest in the planned Nashville trip, with some folks in their 70’s and 80’s going.

Ski/Snowboard program: Don reported the ski and snowboard program is a great program with a great response. He will work on a few details such as refunds for children who are sick and miss a session. He said it is a six-week program but can be extended. Ruth asked if there was ice skating at the Kent School. Don said he would have to check on that.

Basketball Program: Don said it is an “unbelievable” program on Saturdays using Wamogo gyms. There are 20 kindergarteners, 45 first and second graders in the large gym and over 40 in the Litchfield gym. He said it is a great program with great volunteers, wouldn’t work without the volunteers.

Ruth asked if anyone had thought about having hikes?.

Snowshoeing Clinic: To answer Ruth’s question, Don noted that Dave will run a snowshoe clinic this Saturday at the Dorothy Mayer Preserve. Dave said it is supposed to snow again which would be good. He will also add a second clinic on February 26.

A question was asked about basketball in the Community Center gym and Don mentioned some of the problems with that. In response to a question from Kirby, Don said there will be an outdoor basketball hoop placed in the upper parking lot. Don also said he is trying to get people to play volleyball but so far no response.

The Director also mentioned that a walking group has been formed for local ladies. He is working with them to facilitate their effort to get people outdoors. He also said he would like to show movies in the schools. He said the license fees are cheaper if it is in conjunction with a school. Outdoor movies are being considered too.

Ruth asked about the possibility of serving hot meals to seniors. Don explained some of the complexities of the program, but said it would be better to get the food from the General Store. It is something the Town should be looking at.

### WARREN TOWN BEACH

Dave asked about getting a foam float for small children. The Commission members agreed it was a good idea.

Kayak Rack: Dave (who had previously agreed to build kayak racks for the beach) asked what size would be needed. After discussion it was agreed he will build two 6-boat racks, with more to be added if there is a need.

Permit Fees: The Commission reviewed the permit fees for the beach and decided to leave them the same at this time.

Permits were sold last year as follows:

Former residents (\$150) 8 sold

Non-resident seasonal (\$250) 6 sold

Residents 1<sup>st</sup> pass (\$35) 200 sold

Residents 2<sup>nd</sup> pass (\$25) 60 sold

Seniors 1<sup>st</sup> pass (free) 80 given

Seniors 2<sup>nd</sup> pass (\$20) 16 sold

Day passes (\$30) 65 sold

Walk-ins, bikes, \$10

Grills and tables: Kathy mentioned that the group has previously talked about replacing some of the grills. Don said he would work with the Town of Morris about a joint purchase to save money on freight. Dave mentioned the beach could use an extra picnic table or two.

July 3: Don noted he has arranged for “Summer Sounds” to play at the beach on Sunday, July 3 from 6 to 8 p.m., just prior to the fireworks. He will oversee the parking for the event.

Access road: Don noted the beach access road is not in good condition. In the past the work on the road has come out of the town public works budget. He feels the six owners of the road should participate in the

maintenance. \$8,000 is needed in material, but town staff will do the work. First Selectman LaCava and the Commission discussed the ownership of the road. The exact ownership will be determined from town records.

#### FIDDLER'S POND

Dave said he has been asked if another load of carp could be added to Fiddler's Pond. Don noted there are State regulations as to the numbers of fish and frequency of addition. Dave said the person asking will pay for the fish.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Don said he will be working with the social worker regarding Valentine's Day. There will be a St. Patrick's Day luncheon at the Warren Church on Wednesday, March 9. The Town's newsletter will be going out in the next 10 days. Don said he is talking to other towns about a trip to Butternut ski area.

#### ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Kirby, seconded by Dave, the Commission voted to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.

Kathleen Andreasen