

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Regular Meeting Minutes, July 13, 2021
TOWN HALL

Approved July 27, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm.

Members Present –Carrie Joseph, Dan Slattery, Dave Turcotte, Brett Castellano

Guests – Craig Rivest, Angelika Melein

Review Minutes – Dave made a motion to approve June 22 minutes. All in favor 3-0 with one abstention.

Public Comment – Carrie and Eric will be attending the VFW event on July 31st. Scott hasn't picked up the mower yet.

Angelika Melien attended the meeting to express her concerns about how the gardens look overgrown. There was a discussion about the history of who planted and maintained the gardens and an exchange of ideas on how to ensure that the gardens are weeded. Angelika would like to help and said that she would reach out to the Hampden Garden Club as well as the local girl scout troop to see if they could help too. Angelika will take point in organizing the maintenance of the gardens. Parks and Recreation will make sure that the volunteers have the supplies needed.

Kevin Sacco will finish raking the park when the weather improves. The summer program made a "thank you" card for him for all of his help to get the spray park working again.

Review Bills & Payroll – Question about the amount of the spray park electric bill as it is very high, however this is a normal amount for this time of year. All bills approved.

RAH – There is interest in re-starting RAH as it has been dormant for the past 4 years. Jeff Johnson has talked to some people about joining. Dave met with Jeff and Joe Montano to discuss the history and purpose of the group and gave them the RAH folder. They have both expressed that they would like to lead it, but they still need to get other officers. Dave is trying to organize a meeting with new and former RAH members and has spoken to Derrick and Jeff to figure out a day and time to meet. Craig is also interested in helping with RAH as a non-voting member.

Soccer and Basketball Coordinator Positions – These need to be posted. Need to find the position descriptions on the computer.

Summer Program – We are no longer accepting registrations as we have reached the enrollment capacity for each week with 70+ kids attending. The counselors have been doing a great job and the board has heard good reports from parents. The question was raised if there was an operating plan to which Carrie said she has never seen one. When the spray park broke the first week, it took only 45 minutes for everyone to coordinate a new plan and to move the program to Green Meadows. Carrie has a card for the Superintendent and Green Meadows staff to thank them for all their help in moving the program to a new location. Unfortunately, due to the rain the bounce house that had been ordered for last Friday was unable to be used and wasn't picked up until the following day. There was one issue today where a child wasn't picked up on time. The police were notified, and everything was handled.

Soccer – We received an email from Quabbin Valley about a fall soccer league. We will be a part of this league for grades 3-4 and 5-6. Kristen hasn't heard back from any other league about fall soccer for the younger grades. She will contact Wilbraham tomorrow to see if we can join their in-town league for grades K, 1 & 2.

Memorial Park – South Shore will be at the park on Monday morning at 9am to change two pumps and the sand in the filter. Dave might be able to be at the park for 9, and Carrie said she could be there too. Need to bring them a tarp and a wheelbarrow for the sand. Garrett has been doing the morning clean up at the park and Kyle has done some mowing, and everything seems to be going well. Haluch did change the filter however, we should still contact them to schedule a day/time where they can come to the park to show everyone how to change the filter in the future. Brett will show Kyle and Garrett how to check the chemicals at the spray park.

Future Programs – Some ideas include a car show, and the wiffle ball tournament which will be held in October to maybe coordinate with safety night. There was a discussion about fall baseball and Jeff will let everyone know of any updates.

There was discussion about the current operations of the department and the need for a Parks and Recreation director. The board doesn't meet enough to discuss important issues. The department bylaws were last amended in 1991 and no longer apply to how the department is run now. Craig suggested writing a 5-year plan for the department. Also, Garrett will be going back to college in August, and we will need to find someone to help with the maintenance at the park. The board needs to re-work the wording in the maintenance person position posting and reconsider the current maintenance position responsibilities. The department should also get service contracts with local repair shops for when things go wrong at the park. Still need a truck.

Brett asked if the board has ever considered the logistics of creating a skate park and will get more information about them. He also said that his daughter is working on a final project for the Girls Scouts and as part of helping the community she would like to paint the dugouts at Memorial Park. This was approved by the board.

Dave made a motion to approve \$9,999 to be spent on a tractor for the maintenance of the park and ball fields. Dan 2nd, all in favor 4-0. The board will be getting different quotes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm. Next meeting is scheduled for July 27th.