

**MINUTES
RECREATION COMMITTEE
Sept. 28, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peggy Coutu, Kathie Pudvar, Ann Clark, Susan McLellan, Bruce Whitbeck

STAFF: Betsy Cieplicki,

PUBLIC: None

Meeting called to order by Chair, Peggy Coutu

Last meeting's minutes approved as circulated for May 3, 2021.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Summer Camp Overview: We had quite a busy summer season with almost all of our camps near capacity or full. We were happy to offer and successfully run the following summer camps: Camp Create (2 sessions), Tennis Lessons (2 sessions), Rocketry Camp, Horse Camp, Baseball Camp, Redhawk Soccer Camp, Field Hockey Camp, Basketball Camp, Lego Robotics Camp, Wicked Cool Vet School Camp. The only program that didn't run was swim lessons, because the instructor backed out two weeks before it was to start and we couldn't find a replacement. Overall, we had a total of **260** kids attend Shelburne Parks and Recreation Camps this summer!

Summer Events Overview: This summer's event season had some ups and downs. Pre-Planning in the winter/ spring for events was difficult with so many unknowns due to quickly changing pandemic conditions and protocol. Therefore, we scaled back our normal offerings, but were still able to successfully offer 3 concerts and an event at the beach. While Shelburne Farms was not available to host our concert series, we were very pleased with our alternative site at the athletic fields outside Shelburne Fieldhouse. We worked collaboratively with them and the site was well received. The number of attendees was lower than normal, but much of that was attributed to bad weather on one day and still some apprehension about the virus and crowds. The final concert with Fireworks at Vermont Teddy Bear was a hit though and still quite popular! The Beach event had a very low turnout, which may have been due to questionable weather, the timing with the start of school, or no food being offered. It was disappointing that more people didn't attend, as the band (The Rough Suspects) was terrific and the bounce houses were ready to go for kids!

Fall Program Overview: We have a total of 291 in Fall Soccer ranging from pre-school age to 6th grade! We ended up canceling the Sept. session of After School Cross Fit kids, but the Oct. session will happen. We also have After School tennis lessons going on, a Women's Self Defense Class, Yoga, Tai Chi and Essentrics Classes. Our Adult leagues are slowly making a comeback, with Volleyball and Table Tennis registrations filtering in slowly but surely. We have not been able to start the Men's Basketball Program back up yet as we are waiting for approval from the school.

HALLOWEEN EVENT PLANNING

Betsy Proposed a plan to host the indoor Halloween games and activities in the gym after the Parade. The proposal focused on COVID-19 safety protocol intended to limit the number of people in the gym at one time, limit the length of time they are in there, and space people out. Discussion ensued on the size of the group allowed in, which was

determined to be 6 or less people. The line to enter will be outside, and people will enter the gym from the outside door facing the Fire Station. Additional discussion about how to offer the Costume Contest also ensued. After consideration of several options, we decided to do the contest before the parade instead of the same time as the games. If it's good weather, it will be outside. If bad weather, it will be a walk through in the lobby. Participants must sign up in advance to get a spot. Many volunteers will be needed and we will start recruiting now for help.

BUDGET SEASON PLANNING

There was a general discussion about the upcoming budget season and plans for the Recreation draft proposal. Several committee members encourage the Beach House Project to be added. A current or updated cost estimate is needed.

BEACH HOUSE PROJECT FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Betsy reported an update on fundraising progress and some pending opportunities. We are currently just over \$15,000, but a matching \$5,000 pledge is on the table. Ann offered to write to FPF again to try to gain some support to meet that offer. We unfortunately were not able to capitalize on promotions at Shelburne Day, and though we were prepared to at the Beach event, a variety of circumstances resulted in a very small turnout for the event. Therefore, it was not overly helpful for fundraising and awareness, though we did get a few donations at the event.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion was held about food at Newberry Cup on Oct. 9th (last day of fall soccer). The normal food offered by the PTO Bake Sale and Firefighters Pancake breakfast are not possible, and Betsy was unable to find a food truck available. The Committee considered whether to offer selling food and drinks ourselves, but ultimately decided not to. The main reasons were too little time to prepare, not enough manpower, and the profit margin would be low since individually pre-packaged food items would need to be sold due to COVID safety, instead of getting donated baked items.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.