

Hartford Parks and Recreation Commission

Thursday, February 10, 2022

5 pm

Hartford Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

Commission Members in Attendance: Brett Mayfield, Tom McCleary, Michael Vanasse, Allison Childs.

Others in Attendance: Joe Major, Selectboard Liaison, Scott Hausler, Director

Commission Members not in Attendance: David Crocco.

Meeting called to order: 5:07 pm by Brett Mayfield

The January minutes were approved.

Citizen Comments: none

Commission Member Comments: none

Directors Reports for February 3, 2022: Full Directors Reports attached.

Ice fishing derby was a success. Karen took video of event to share with sponsors on Constant Contact.

Karen will be part-time at end of February. There will be two part-time Administrative Assistants for a total of 48 hours. This will save the town money as no insurance benefits.

So far, there have been six applicants for the job.

Hearts in the Park trivia contest – drawing.

Red Zone 5 K race this Saturday, the 12th of February. Walkers and runners, dog friendly.

Ventures Camp week of 2/14 filled up.

Basketball winding down.

Hockey/skating arena working well.

Old Business

No updates on community center

Pool project progresses – lounge chairs ordered; management of pool, “Pool Supervisor” being worked on. June opening anticipated.

Goals Strategies & Actions of Recreation Department, part of Towns Master Plan, is reviewed with staff as part of process for re-certification. Also being considered is the Recreation Department’s Program Plan and Strategic Plan.

Comment from commission member, Tom McCleary, that certification process maybe “too much work, for what it’s worth”, Scott’s rejoinder was that overall re-cert is a plus for Recreation Department.

New Business

Liaisons appointed: Mike Vanasse – youth sports, Allison Childs – Zoning and Planning, David Crocco – Tree Board, Tom McCleary – Conservation Commission, Brett Mayfield – School and Select Board

Joe Major stepping down as Selectboard liaison.

Agenda Items for Next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Community Center

Pool Project

Review of Program Plan, Strategic Plan and Goals and Objectives

Mike Vanasse made motion to adjourn and all accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.

Next Meeting March 10, 2022, at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted: Tom McCleary, Commission Secretary

Signed By: _____ Dated: _____

Parks & Recreation Department
Significant Activity Report
February 3rd, 2022
Respectfully Submitted By: Scott Hausler, Director

Program and Park Highlights

- The Department is busy marketing several up and coming activities and events. Marketing completed for Comics Class, re-marketing for the upcoming Youth Ice Fishing Derby on Facebook page, UV Events page, VNews Events page. We have upcoming programs ready to push out. SOLID Speed and Agility, Boys Lacrosse Camp and a Card Making Workshop.
- We began advertising for the Administrative Assistant P/T Position. The current full-time position held by Karen McNall will be changed into a cooperative shared position. Due to an upcoming retirement, the position will be shared offering 24 hours per-week for two individuals. This change allows for 8 additional hours of service and reduces expenses.
- The Departments Annual Ice Fishing Derby sponsored in part by Mascoma Bank, 802 Credit Union, Claremont Savings Bank, White River Chevy, Steves Bait Shop and Bloods Catering & Party Rentals is Saturday, February 5th. Currently we have 40 signed up for contest and 30 individuals signed up for the fishing clinic.
- The National Recreation and Park Association's Commission on Accreditation has implemented a new format for accredited agencies for filing annual reports. The Department is busy working to comply with the new report format which wants agencies to provide evidence-based materials that outline 5 different national standards. Agencies are required to show that the standards are being fulfilled. Although the report is not due until the end of May, it requires a tremendous amount of time and effort to address each standard.
- The State of Vermont – VTrans Historic Preservation Officer, Judith Ehrlich was contacted about the historic weathervane that was taken over 45 years ago from the WRJ Railroad Station. They appear to be interested in the Loss Art Register and the listing of the weathervane on the Sothbys Auction. We believe we have made the best available connection regarding interest to retrieve the weathervane and hopeful VTrans will be able to identify and address if the weathervane can be acquired and returned.
- DPW staff have been extremely helpful over the past couple weeks with snow removal at WABA. The roof sheds a tremendous amount of snow off the north side of the building and requires a front-end loader to remove it. Additionally, DPW was able to remove a tremendous amount of ice build up caused by the dumping of resurfacing ice from the Zamboni.
- The extremely cold temperatures have caused a few hiccups with the refrigeration system at WABA. With cold temps the chiller cubes do not run, which is good for costs, but not so good for when the system has to restart. Introducing negative degree glycol into the cubes has caused a sensor alarm to trigger and shut the units down. This causes us multiple manual restarts. At this time, there isn't much we can do as the season continues to have longer periods of extremely cold temperatures that causes this issue. Increasing heat and weatherization improvements to the chiller room will be one solution we plan to implement after the season.