



MINUTES
DURHAM PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
March 22, 2022
7:00 pm Town Council Chambers



Call to Order (7:00)

Cathy Leach called the Parks & Recreation Meeting to order.

Attending in Town Council Chambers: David Leach, Tracy Schroeder, Cathy Leach, Joe Friedman, Town Council Rep. Attending remotely via Zoom: Michael Drooker, Rachel Gasowski.

Approval of Agenda

Tracy made a motion (David second) to approve the agenda. Agenda approved, 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Cathy made some suggested changes and asked for minor clarification of the draft meeting minutes for February 15, 2022. The committee discussed and made minor changes. Tracy made a motion (Dave second) to accept the minutes as amended. Minutes were approved, 4-0 (Joe abstained as he was not present at the Feb. meeting).

Public Comments

There were no comments from members of the public.

Update from Parks and Rec director

Last Sunday was the last day for Churchill Rink. Great season, ended with 37 teams participating in the Slush Cup.

Summer camp registration: all Reach and Friday field trips are full. There are kids on waiting lists. A few camps outside of Reach, majority of those full as well.

Adult pick-up Basketball and Volleyball started, will go for the next 5 weekends.

Woodridge Park - looking good for early season. Tennis has started. Other activities there will be Ultimate Frisbee, ORYA baseball, field hockey etc.

Egg Hunt scheduled for April 16th. Thank you to the ORHS National Honor Society students who are stuffing 3000 eggs!

Planning to begin soon for Memorial Day Observation and Durham Day. Other summer events will be Family Movie night, Music on Main, Summer Splash. Durham Day will have a committee in place with interested parties and will meet on alternate weeks.

Rachel participated in discussions on renovations to the house and barn at Wagon Hill, including possibilities for making barn usable for 3 season activities such as tai chi, yoga, etc. Hoping to make it a 4 season in the future. Currently can't use the barn or the house as it is not in compliance with safety

regulations and both need significant renovations. The committee requested that Rachel keep it updated on these conversations and to ask for its assistance as needed.

Roundtable

Joe Friedman introduced himself as the new Town Council Rep for the committee. He is looking forward to doing what he can to help the committee. The committee welcomed Joe to the group.

Cathy mentioned that she is filling in for the chair, Mike Mullaney this evening. Mike is not able to make the April meeting and has decided not to renew his term. Former town council rep Al Howland is expected to apply to join the committee as a regular member. Cathy reminded the group that one of our goals is to recruit new committee members.

Michael Drooker observed that the herons have returned to the Transfer station and are nesting there.

Michael provided an update from the Land Stewardship Subcommittee:

- UNH students will be doing environmental research at Spruce Hole Bog, there will be signage explaining that people are not to go into the bog.
- Eagle Scout projects- One on Wagon Hill replacing existing raised wood walkway. Should be done by the end of May. Another bridge will be built in the Stolworthy preserve.
- The Conservation commission hosted a presentation by Doug Tallaway on the subject of nature friendly landscape. It will be on DCAT to view.
- Study for preservation of Bickford house on Wagon Hill to be completed by the end of May

Cathy brought up that our normally scheduled April meeting would fall on April 26 which is during school vacation week, which is a conflict for Rachel. All agreed the April meeting will be rescheduled for April 19 in Town Council chambers.

Business:

Role of Committee

Rachel led a discussion on the role of the committee. The committee had been provided a committee vision, purpose, and mission from the Town website. The committee agreed that some information needed updating, including the history section. Generally, committee members agreed with the sections relating to vision, purpose and mission, although there was some discussion whether the committee would or could actually acquire property. The committee did acknowledge that wouldn't happen without town or Council approval, so felt it was okay to leave that as is.

Joe outlined his understanding of his role as Council rep to the committee, which is to communicate pertinent issues or concerns to the Council, as well as vice versa. Also, to help the committee determine processes to be followed as needed.

Cathy and Dave offered to update the document for the next meeting.

Committee Goals Chart

The committee reviewed a revised goals chart updated by Rachel and Cathy. All agreed the goals were worthwhile and attainable. Rachel talked about her vision of the various working groups. Cathy suggested the committee review the goals and provide updates at each meeting if applicable.

April meeting agenda planning

Committee members participated in agenda planning for the April meeting.

Adjourn (7:50 pm)

Tracy made a motion to adjourn (Dave second). Unanimous vote to adjourn, 5-0.