

Recreation Committee Meeting

September 13, 2016, 6:30PM.

Hardwick Public Safety Building

Present: Katharine Ingram, Chair, Joe Brosseau, Nicole Miller, Ron Wiesen, Derek Williams, Kathy Hemmens, Jessica Manchester

Trails Committee Members present: Eric Remick, Norma Spaulding

Katharine called the meeting to order at 6:35PM. The first item of business was approving the Minutes of the August meeting. The minutes were approved with no change by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Kathy Hemmens gave the financial report for the month of August. No expenses were recorded, except for the VLCT/PACIF payment of \$175.50 and salary and benefit payments for Jessica Manchester in the amounts of \$780.00 in salary; \$59.68 in SS payments; \$17.60 for Worker's Comp.; and \$24.68 for Unemployment Insurance. The 2016-2017 budget for the Committee is \$21,933.00 and the balance is currently \$21,757.50. Katharine will check with Brittany on her request for conference registration for her and Jessica as that should have been reflected in this report.

Katharine informed the Committee that it is time to begin putting together the budget proposal for next year as it must be presented to the Select Board by the end of November. After discussion it was agreed to hold a special meeting to work on the budget on September 28th at 6:00PM at the Public Safety Building. Members were urged to submit requests for new projects or increases in current items prior to the meeting to Jessica for compilation and distribution.

Jessica then reported on the Pump Track opening. She stated that about 30 people came and that about 10 helmets were given away. Other members of the Committee reported hearing enthusiastic responses to this new resource. Katharine added that Chris Ingram is interested in exploring the development of a beginning mountain biking trail at the Hardwick Trails and that this may be a project that Rec. and Trails Committee can work on together.

The next item to be discussed was the status of the Events Calendar. Jessica reported that she will be talking with GRACE and the Jeudevine Library about including their events in the calendar and she must meet with Maya for a training before accessing the Town website. Katharine wants to be sure that the Calendar will be able to be on the Town website; Joe then proposed that we get the calendar going and in the meantime determine if it can go on the Town website. Jessica is to meet with Maya for the required training, meet with local organizations to work out how to get their information, and publicize events on the Front Porch Forum. The Committee members want this task to be Jessica's highest priority between now and the next meeting.

How to achieve better coordination and cooperation with the Trails Committee was the next item to be taken up. Eric and Norma provided some background about how Trails came to be more

or less independent of the Recreation Committee. Katharine raised questions about whether Trails should be considered a sub-committee of Rec. and whether the members should be appointed as are Rec. Committee members. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that Trails and Rec. would work together on the beginner's bike path at the Hardwick Trails and that the more bureaucratic questions of structure will be dealt with as we go along. Each Committee will share its meeting minutes with the other, and both Committees will participate in a long-range planning session sometime in the coming year. Eric Remick from Trails suggested Helen Beattie as the facilitator of that meeting.

Kathy addressed the next item which she had asked to put on the agenda: a couple of possible long-term plans. She suggested exploring the possibility of using the Cottage Street park for more than Little League and T-Ball in the off-season, i.e. portable soccer goals or other activities that would not require a disruption of the ball field usage in the spring and summer. She also indicated an interest in seeing if the Senior Center could be revived and offer more activities for seniors. The Committee was supportive and she and Norma Spaulding will see about contacting the Senior Center, the Council on Aging, and the Senior Center in St. Johnsbury for technical assistance.

Jessica reported that the Center for Agricultural Economy is o.k. with the upgraded ice rink plan, though she was unable to make any progress on gathering information about liners. After some discussion, Jessica was asked to call Port-a-Rinx and get the cost for a 60x80 liner.

The Committee decided to hold a Special Budget meeting on September 28th at 6PM at the Public Safety Building to outline budget priorities for next year. Committee members with new project ideas are asked to send them to Jessica for compilation prior to the meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:18PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hemmens

The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on October 11th at 6:30PM at the Public Safety Building on High Street.