

Weathersfield Parks & Recreation Commission
Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024
1879 Schoolhouse, 1862 Route 106

Board members present: Ray Stapleton, Olivia Savage, Nichole Gagnon, Amy Beth Main, Patience Bearse and Julia Gumbart

Board members absent: none

Public present: none

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM.

Comments Not on the Agenda

Nichole shared materials for the town wide yard sale project to take place June 1st and 2nd. She plans to set up an app where people can view yard sale locations on Google Maps and will post information for people to sign up on the P&R Facebook page.

Ray noted that he has new business he would like to discuss at the end of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Nichole motioned to approve the minutes from 11/1/23, seconded by Patience. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.

Festival

Nichole shared that she made an event page on Facebook that is already gathering a lot of interest. Nichole also shared the marketing materials that she has been working on. Each member shared the progress that they have made in reaching out to potential recreational groups, vendors and sponsors, and determined tasks to be completed by the next meeting.

Fishing Derby

This year's fishing derby will be held on June 15th (rain date 16th) from 10AM-1PM. The State has approved this and a representative from P&R will need to travel to Essex on 4/20/24 for "Let's Go Fishing" program training. Nichole offered to bring a speaker and microphone. Olivia will reach out to Doolittle's Print Serve to see if they would donate a banner.

Nichole made a motion to allow Olivia to purchase trophies for the derby, not to exceed \$100. Seconded by Julia. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.

Hoisington Field

Ray shared that he has submitted a grant application for \$38,000 from the State to go towards a plan for Hoisington Field. He also suggested that we start a “Friends of Hoisington Field” group to garner support. Nichole added that we should be sure to have a booth at each event for outreach and fundraising.

New Business

Ray shared that he has submitted an application for a grant from the State for a scoping study to widen the road shoulder from the 1879 Schoolhouse to Upper Falls Road. After getting recommendations, Ray can then look into more highway safety grants. Widening the shoulder of Route 106 would be a huge asset for the recreational value of not only Hoisington Field but Perkinsville in general.

Ray shared details of a potential future project of expanding the Ascutney Green across from the Proctor Library. This project would be in collaboration with the landowner of the parcel on the west side of Route 5. Ray asked for a motion to show support of this project if the board is interested.

Nichole made a motion for the Parks & Recreation Commission to support the expansion of the Ascutney Green. Seconded by Olivia. No Discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.

Ray also shared details regarding the possibility of Weathersfield being interested in acquiring the old Springfield Dam property off Wellwood Orchard Road. Ray asked for a motion to show support of this project if the board is interested.

Julia made a motion for the Parks & Recreation Commission to support the acquisition of the Springfield Dam property. Seconded by Nichole. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.

Future Agenda Items

-Outdoor lighting of 1879 Schoolhouse

Nichole motioned to adjourn at 7:32 PM.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30 PM at the 1879 Schoolhouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Gumbart

Approved on: _____ by: _____