

Weathersfield Parks & Recreation Commission
Wednesday February 1st, 2023
1879 Schoolhouse, 1862 Route 106

Board members present: Ray Stapleton, Julia Gumbart

Board members absent: Mark Richardson, Olivia Savage

Public present: Jackie Lindamood, Carrie Jewell

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM.

The previous meeting minutes were not reviewed due to the absence of half of the board.

Hoisington Field Discussion

Petition

Ray started a discussion about a possible petition for Weathersfield residents to sign in support of a project to overhaul Hoisington Field, stressing the need for community engagement. Carrie suggested that a “live Google doc” could be an option and that she could look into getting something about it sent out in the weekly school newsletter. Jackie emphasized that the wording in the petition should be short and simple. After some discussion, the following draft was agreed upon with an intention to revisit it at the next meeting:

We, the undersigned residents of Weathersfield, wish to express our support to the Weathersfield Selectboard to allocate ARPA funding to hire an individual and/or firm to redesign Hoisington Field utilizing community input.

Presentation

Julia shared her draft Google Slides presentation and the supportive language she found on the Vermont League of Cities and Towns site regarding how town governments should prioritize spending ARPA money on recreational and community gathering facilities. She also shared the wording in the Town Plan regarding the desire to improve Hoisington Field.

Jackie added that because towns should firstly prioritize projects to directly aid in areas impacted by COVID, we could argue that improving a recreational space could improve the long term health of the community and therefore lessen the impacts of COVID and other health issues. Ray emphasized this by adding that this space could assist at-risk communities and provide a free location for all to utilize.

July 8th Family Festival at Hoisington Field

Funding

Ray shared that he spoke with Springfield GMC and that they would be happy to provide funding, set-up a booth, run an activity (cornhole), etc. The following list of local businesses/entities were discussed as potential sources of funding/booths/activities:

Wellwood Orchards	ARC	VTEL	Local preschools
Edgar May	Crown Point Country Club	Wyman Insurance	Lindamood CPA
Local hospitals	Windsor Recreation	Weathersfield Rod & Gun	Snowmobile clubs
Ascutney Union Church	Town commissions	VT game warden	VINS
Weathersfield Garden Club	Library		

Jackie asked whether food would be free. Ray responded that if we can secure funding/food donations, ideally food would be free for attendees, perhaps hotdogs and hamburgers or food trucks. Ray mentioned that it would be best to reach out to businesses soon to get an idea of what they would be able to donate/what activities they would like to run so that there aren't any repeats. Carrie added that if we can present the businesses with a list of what we are trying to secure funding for (food, music, shaved ice truck), we may have more support than just flat out asking for donations. All agreed.

Parking

There was discussion surrounding parking for the event, noting that the current parking lot is not sufficient for an event of this size. Ray suggested that we could reach out to residents on Quarry, Maple and High Streets to see if anyone would be willing to allow festival goers to park on their land. Otherwise people will need to park on the sides of the roads.

Events

Possible events were brainstormed, including face painting, cornhole, dunk tank, and cow plop. There is also interest in doing some sort of raffle.

Ray motioned to adjourn at 7:27 PM, seconded by Julia.

Next meeting will be a special meeting on Tuesday, February 15th at 6 PM at the 1879 Schoolhouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Gumbart