

**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, 11.18.20**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**7:00pm**

**FOR PUBLIC USE: If the public would like to “attend” the meeting they may do so through via telephone:**

**Dial by your location:**

**(312) 626 6799 US (Chicago) (929) 205 6099 US (New York)**

**Meeting ID: 985 1176 6528**

**Participation via Phone for Public Comment / Hearing:** To participate press \*9 when prompted to do so (public hearing, public participation, etc.) This will display as a "hand wave", letting the host or co-host know that the caller wishes to speak. Meetings are also available to watch on Merrimack TV Channel 20 and MerrimackTV.com (click "watch live" and choose channel 20)

Attendees on Zoom: Laura Jaynes, Christine Lavoie, Tracy McGraw, Abbie Cote – Student Representative, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Shannon Barnes – School Board Representative, Rick Greenier – MYA and Michelle Creswell  
Parks and Recreation Staff on zoom: Matt Casparius, Director

Absent: none

Excused: Julie Poole, Jon Barkley – Alternative MYA and Lon Woods - Town Council

Public: Jay Haddad, Troop 424 for Public Beach Changing Rooms Project, David Roy, Troop 424 for Basketball Court Barrier Netting Project and Michael Clark, Troop 424 for Dog Park Information Kiosk Project

Start time: 7:03pm

- 1 Open Meeting/Introduction
- 2 Approval of minutes from October 21, 2020
  - Shannon Barnes made the motion to accept the October meeting minutes
  - Christine Lavoie 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
  - 6-0-2 motion passed (Maureen Hall and Abbie Cote – abstained)
- 3 New Business
  - Eagle Scout Project Proposal – Joy Morris, Troop 15, Gaga Ball Pit
    - Not present – will get a report for December meeting
- 4 Old Business
  - Project Completion Report from:
    - Jay Haddad, Troop 424, Public Beach Changing Rooms Project
      - Repair the bathroom as well as add 6 stalls with a bench to the changing rooms
    - David Roy, Troop 424, Basketball Court Barrier Netting Project
      - Fundraising events were held, took 5 workdays to complete digging the 22 holes, filling with cement and then the final step of installing the netting
    - Michael Clark, Troop 424, Dog Park Information Kiosk Project
      - Fundraising events were held, 2 holes were dug, frame was set in the ground for one night and then the roof and panels were put in place
  - Watson Park Fencing - Matt Casparius
    - Fence will be completed by 11.19.20
    - Mr. Fence Guy did the work for \$13,000 for cost and donated the labor – thank you
  - Wasserman Park Beach Update - Matt Casparius
    - The Dept of Environmental services is finally reviewing our final plans for sign up which should be happening any day now
    - Next step that was just learned, is also has to go to the Governor’s Executive Council for final approval. That it is still TBD
    - This could now become a spring project

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park - Christine Lavoie
  - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$1,762.59
  - Update on Fall Cleanup day
    - Mulch was delivered
    - Volunteers are needed to help with clean up before the snow starts
  - Donations for baggies for dog waste is always welcome
  - Bring water for your dog as the waterline project is still ongoing

## 5 Director's Report - Matt Casparius

- Budget Update
  - 2021-2022 operating budget requests were submitted to the Town Manager and Finance Director last week. Budget was largely level funded from the current year with a few notable exceptions due to problems that occurred this past summer with crowds, trash and vandalism combined with the pending rebuilding of the Wasserman Park Beach which include:
    - Bring back weekend Lifeguard Coverage which we have not had in more than 10 years. We are envisioning an 11 am – 7 pm schedule
    - Park attending monitoring the resident parking lot and checking for ID's
    - Provide weekday lifeguard and Park Attendant coverage until 7:00 pm on weekdays
      - This would add an extra position over what the taxpayers have typically supported but obviously gets us a lot more coverage of the beach which we expect to be busier next summer
  - At some point in January, Matt Casparius will be scheduled to present the budget to the Town Council for consideration
- Fall/Winter Program and Events
  - Annual Halloween Party: The Monster Stroll
    - Merrimack residents only – 217 people total (out of 300)
    - People felt safe and while they missed the traditional event seemed to enjoy it
    - From this event, a similar timed ticket entry model for the Winter Carnival in February will be proposed which will spread out across the field next to the Playground and build our walking path that way. Given how many people didn't show, we will probably also increase the number of free tickets but more on that later.
  - Annual Turkey Scavenger Hunt will be 11.21.20
  - Annual Holiday Happenings Events
    - Santa's Merrimack Holiday Tour / Tree Lighting - Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>
      - Santa & Mrs. Claus are going to be riding on a Fire Department vehicle and taking a tour across Merrimack. We are encouraging everyone to come out and wave to Santa & Mrs. Claus while social distancing from one of our pre-determined locations in Town. They will pull into the parking lots of these locations for a few minutes before moving on to the next location which are:
 

○ Merrimack High School	2:45 pm
○ O'Gara Drive	2:50 pm
○ Merrimack Middle School	3:00 pm
○ Reeds Ferry Elementary	3:10 pm
○ Walgreen / Daniel Webster Hwy	3:20 pm
○ Merrimack 360 Plaza	3:30 pm
○ Thornton's Ferry Elementary	3:45 pm
      - Tree Lighting will happen after the tour at the Town Hall and this event will be around 15 minutes which will include:
        - Santa's Countdown to turn on the lights

- Brief and socially distanced performance by Broadway Bound and as long as the School District doesn't switch to remote learning before then
  - Small portion of the High School Band playing a few songs
- Anyone that does come to the Park for the Tree Lighting will be required to wear a mask and maintain social distancing from other families. We will also limit the number of people that can come into the park.
- Santa Calling Program
  - 55 children are scheduled to receive a call on either December 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> with the help from Merrimack Police Department, Library and Parks & Rec Staff
- Holiday Food Drive December Vacation Week Program
  - Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 2:00 pm at Town Hall
  - Donations of canned food and other non-perishable items to benefit the local food pantries at St John Neumann and St James churches
  - Special guest appearance by Santa Claus
  - Decorate your car and enter to win a family fun gift card gift pack including a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant of choice, Lego Land passes as well as Altitude passes. donated by Macaroni Kid Newsletter
- Southern NH Festival of Lights
  - The Southern New Hampshire Tour of lights is a free event and collaboration among 8 communities in Southern New Hampshire
  - Merrimack families can decorate their homes for the holidays and want to show them off with festive lights this upcoming holiday season and then register your address with the Merrimack Parks & Recreation Department no later than Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> to enter to win
  - Homes on the tour are expected are encouraged to keep their lighting shining from Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Each home that enters will be entered into a drawing to win a \$25 gift certificate to a local restaurant of their choice
- Miscellaneous Updates
  - Blood Drive in December – more info TBD
  - School Vacation week program for 16 kids (2 groups of 8)

## 6 Organization Reports

- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall
  - No meetings are held due to COVID
  - Kitchen floor and bathrooms are being restored
- School Representative – Abbie Cote
  - Remote learning is still in effect
  - Parent/teacher conferences are in progress
  - Thanksgiving break is coming soon
- MYA - Rick Greenier
  - Fall baseball, softball, soccer and football finished on November 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Thanks to Sweet Ginger for donating the score board at Watson Park
  - Lacrosse registration will be active soon
  - Basketball and wrestling registration are on hold for right now
  - merrimackyouthassociation.com
- School Board – Shannon Barnes
  - School board meeting was held on 11.17.20 with an emergency meeting happening soon to continue talks for school learning needs through Martin Luther King Jr Day
- Town Council – Lon Woods – not present

## 7 Comments from the Public – was none

- Those wishing to participate in "public comment" can do so via a dedicated e-mail address prior to the start of the meeting. These e-mails can be read at the discretion of the participants or recorded for the meeting minutes as part of the public record. Emails should be sent to: [mcasparius@merrimacknh.gov](mailto:mcasparius@merrimacknh.gov). All e-mails sent to this address for the November 18th meeting will be sent to ALL members of the Parks & Recreation Committee if they are received before the meeting begins.

8 Comments from the Committee

- During the winter, office coverage might include some working from home

9 Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, December 16, 2020

10 Adjourn at 8:10pm

- Tracy McGraw made the motion to adjourn at 8:10pm
- Shannon Barnes 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 8-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Creswell