

**MERRIMACK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH
VIRTUAL MEETING
7:00 PM**

Open Meeting / Introductions: Rick Greenier - MYA, Shannon Barnes – School Board, Abby Cote – Student Rep., Christine Lavoie – co-chair, Laura Jaynes - Chair, Tracy McGraw - Member, Matt Casparius – Parks & Recs

Excused: Julie Poole, Michelle Creswell, Maureen Hall , Lon Woods

Approval of minutes from February 16th, 2021 – Motion, Shannon Barnes; Second, Chris Lavoie; VOTE: 5-0-1

Old Business:

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park
 - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$1,762.59
 - Bring dog park bags
 - Water lines are not at the park
 - Had another convo about running water line to the park; might have to do pump system; hoping to do this spring

Director's Report:

- 2021 Summer Camp Update
 - COVID-19 Guidance – released by gov last Thursday; hoping to loosen restrictions by memorial day depending upon the COVID numbers; hoping for even fewer restrictions coming up;
 - All summer camp staff can get vaccinated under phase 2a
 - Once employees get through vetting process, they will receive letter from the town showing eligibility for vaccination
 - 3/25/21 – Matthew Casparius will appear before TC. The presentation will be about what the Governor's guidance says, and the list of items and processes being followed
 - Still cannot do field trips, so cannot do TREK camp this summer
 - Registration & Summer Hiring Update
 - Registration numbers are still low
 - A year ago, we were on pace for record breaking year with 800 reg; right now we are at approximately 500 registrations, which is down approximately 20% from last year at this time
 - Part of the lower registration rate this year is fear from parents that camp might not run
 - As for staffing for the camp, normally we have an 85% retention rate of staff. However, this year, we had a loss of 70% because of COVID restrictions
 - Need junior camp counsel, drama, lifeguard, swim instructors, cook, seasonal maintenance help
- Report on Recent Community Special Events
 - Ice Skating Rink – officially closed 3/8/21, after a 6-week season, which was better than last year. This year, we have better weather.
 - We want to Thank the Highway Department that worked on maintaining ice during the week
 - This year, we had a large increase in number of people using
 - Having lights help bring in more people
 - After water drained from skating rink, DPW will take down rink and we'll set up beach volleyball
 - Winter Carnival - this year's event was successful with social distancing rules. We increased the registration limit to 450 spots; 355 registered; 220 attended;
 - Turn Up the Heat Chili 6K was the final of the winter running series. Thanks to James for running event, and Thanks to all volunteers. The attendees enjoyed the event.
 - Various conversations with runners/family provided ideas for different theme for next year
 - Discussions of having a routine social group for runners

- Possible running club

○ Upcoming Special Events

- 29th Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 27th
 - Easter egg hunt kits will be passed out during a drive-thru process at Town Hall from 10am-12pm
 - Asked families to register, and those who registered would drive thru and pick up their kit(s)
 - Kit contains 20 easter eggs (candy or toys inside), crafts from Parks & Recs, Craft from the Library, and then the Easter Bunny will hand out the bag of easter eggs
 - Merrimack Friends & Family will have traditional baked goods
 - 400 kits available
- Spring Community Cleanup Day Saturday, April 10th
 - Tied into 275th birthday
 - Clean up trails, adopt a road locations
 - Register in advance – on website. This will take you to a survey form, pick location, and adjustments of placement of pick up crews will be made as needed
 - Give out gloves, bags
 - Starts at 10am
 - 9 groups registered
 - 80 volunteers
- Merrimack 275th Celebration Events – events to kick off in April and run through October; approx. a dozen events through May
- Go to Town page www.merrimacknh.gov
- Go to Parks & Recs page
- Go to Facebook page for 275th - <https://www.facebook.com/Merrimack275th/>
 - Movie Nights in the Park for Summer 2021 Dates TBA
 - Choosing movies that are celebrating milestones this year
 - 32 movies were given as options, and we made a march madness bracket out of it
 - Currently the movies have been narrowed down to 8
 - The final 4 movies that we're left with will be the ones shown this summer
 - For kids, adults
 - At Wassermann Park like last year
 - Moonlit Trails & Tales Fridays, April 23rd & May 21st
 - Fridays before full moon
 - Short moonlight hike at Wasserman, then campfire and stories
 - Limited numbers for social distancing
 - \$5 per family to cover cost of firewood, marshmallows, etc.
 - Anniversary New Baby – if expecting baby around 4/2/2021 – actual date of 275th Anniversary – please see online
 - Winner – onesie – 275th anniversary; Gift certificate to Buy Buy Baby in Nashua
 - 2.75 Mile “Not Quite a 5K” Road Race Saturday, May 15th
 - Begin/end town hall; 10am
 - Registration now open
 - \$25 to register; participants will received a race medal and race t-shirt;
 - Can participate in the race either in person or virtual
 - Virtual participation is \$15
 - Live attendees – registration is limited
 - Self report times

- Hope for more events as we approach fall; depends upon when restrictions ease up and governor

- Other Department Updates
- Resurfacing of Wassermann park tennis courts – the High School team is ready to practice. We are holding off on resurfacing so that the High School team can start on time. Once their season ends, we will start resurfacing

Boston Post cane – Arthur Haight (sp) – born in 1926; living in Merrimack since 1960's. There will be an event for presentation of cane, proclamation from governor. Information on the event will be added to website once confirmed

Fields – most of the fields have been reserved. There will likely be revisions of the fee schedule next year

Organization Reports:

- Senior Citizens Club – not present
- Student Rep – Abby – concert on Merrimack TV, small ensembles from Merrimack band; brass, woodwind, etc.; Merrimack HS website – dates for virtual college visits, recommend visits early; tennis sign ups.
- MYA – Rick Grenier – when fields open, will begin baseball, spring soccer, lacrosse, softball; will hope to participate in clean up day, take care of MYA building and fields they use; go to: merrimackyouthassociation.com for more information
- School Board – Shannon Barnes – anyone traveling outside of New England – the 14 day quarantine has been reduced to 10 days; will be making more revisions to travel; special meeting on 3/30 to discuss further about more in-class time for grades 5-12; k-4 are currently in school 5 days per week; next meeting will go over draft of next school year calendar; barring an act of God, goal to have last day of school be 6/11; graduation scheduled for 6/12; format to be announced based upon social distancing guidelines; school staff will be giving vaccination clinic on 3/27 and 3/28 from state of NH, scheduling for vaccination clinic started today; should be vaccinated by end of April; spring sports are doing tryouts; keep eye on calendar at schools and get info from athletic directors
- Town Council – not present

Comments from the Public: NO PUBLIC

Next meeting:

Wednesday, April 21st

ADJOURN 7:43 pm: Motion, Shannon Barnes; Second, Christine Lavoie; VOTE: 6-0-0