

**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 16, 2023**  
**Town Hall, Matthew Thornton Meeting Room**  
**7:00pm**

**Attendees:** Tracy McGraw, Laura Jaynes, Phil Przybyszewski, Josh Toms, Heather Fairbanks, Naomi Halter – School Board Representative, Mackenzie Murphy – Town Council, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Matthew Brown – Student Representative and Michelle Creswell

**Parks and Recreation Staff:** Matt Casparius, Director

**Absent:** none

**Excused:** David Shaw, Julie Poole, Christine Lavoie, Rick Greenier – MYA, Jonathan Barkley – Alternate MYA and Laurie Rothhaus – Alternate School Board Representative

**Public:** Angela Brown

**Start time:** 7:00pm

**Open Meeting/Introductions**

**Approval of minutes from June 21, 2023**

- 1 correction to update Laurie Rothhaus to Naomi Halter under School Board section of the agenda
- Phil Przybyszewski, made the motion to accept the amended June meeting minutes
- Naomi Halter 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 7-0-3 motion passed (abstained: Naomi Halter, Matthew Brown and Michelle Creswell)

**New Business:**

- Welcome/Introduce 3 new members
  - Josh Toms, Matthew Brown and Heather Fairbanks
- Review of Chapter 142 - Parks & Recreation Ordinances for potential changes - Matt Casparius
  - See attached ordinances for updated information
  - Maureen Hall, made the motion to accept the amended ordinances
  - Phil Przybyszewski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
  - 9-0-1 motion passed (abstained: Mackenzie Murphy)

**Old Business:**

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park - Tracy McGraw
  - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$1,693.59
  - Fall Clean Up is TBD
  - Heather Fairbanks mentioned some of the dog park is overgrown and mowing would be helpful
  - Tracy McGraw asked Matt Casparius if people can bring their own week whacker to help with the grass said yes that is allowed
  - Mosquitoes Joe is still performing tick treatments using natural oils
  - Reminder to pet owners to clean up dog's waste
  - Looking for volunteers for fundraising events you can reach out to friendsofthemerrimackdogpark on Facebook or Matt Casparius
  - Donations for baggies for dog waste and garbage are always welcome

**Director's Report:** Matt Casparius

- Summer Camp Update
  - American Camp Association Accreditation Visit and accreditation was completed
- Naticook After School Program
  - 3 staff hired and need 1 more staff member
  - 21 participants currently registered and hoping to get to 30
- Upcoming Special Events
  - Summer Concerts in the Park Wednesdays, June 21<sup>st</sup> – August 16<sup>th</sup>

- Rained out concert from June will be held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>
- 4<sup>th</sup> Of July Festivities Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Movies in the Park
  - Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> Minions: Rise of Gru – Wasserman Park at 7pm
  - Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> Puss In Boots: The Last Wish
- Playground Updates
  - Twin Bridge Park – new slides have been delivered and need to close the park 2-3 to install
  - Wasserman Park – playground safety chips will be delivered and spread out once camp is closed
- Miscellaneous Updates
  - n/a

#### **Organization Reports:**

- MYA - Rick Greenier – not present
- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall
  - Floors and rugs will be replaced and therefore no August meeting
  - September 25<sup>th</sup> Meals on wheels will serve lunch
  - October 21<sup>st</sup> they will host a Senior Fair – raffle baskets, food and vendors
  - Christmas Event is currently being planned
- School Board – Naomi Halter
  - First day of school is August 31<sup>st</sup> and it will be a staggered start
  - September 4<sup>th</sup> is day off due to Labor Day holiday
  - Bus routes should be posted approximately 1 week before school starts and they will start practicing their bus routes so might see the buses around town
  - During recent meeting the board created new goals to help better the overall school topics
- Student Representative – Matthew Brown
  - Class of 2025 and 2026 held car washing fundraisers over the summer and 1 more is planned on August 19<sup>th</sup> at Burger King intersection
  - Band camp is starting August 21<sup>st</sup> for marching band and the theme is Wicked
  - September 16<sup>th</sup> is Homecoming
  - Additional field space is a continued need for sports and band
- Town Council – Mackenzie Murphy
  - August 17<sup>th</sup> is next meeting

**Comments from the Public:** none

#### **Comments from the Committee:**

- Maureen Hall Human Society to hosts Wags to Wishes fundraiser for at Budweiser field on September 16<sup>th</sup>

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

- Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>

#### **Adjourn at 7:58pm**

- Matthew Brown made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm
- Laura Jaynes 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 10-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Creswell