

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 11/20/19
Town Hall
7:00 pm

Attendees: Laura Jaynes, Christine Lavoie, Tracy McGraw, Rick Grenier-MYA, Lon Woods – Town Council, Abbie Cote – Student Representative, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Shannon Barnes – School Board, Julie Poole.

Parks and Recreations: Matt Casparius, Director

Presenting: Boy Scouts: Brian Stevens, standing in advisor (actual advisor is Mr. Faust), Jay Haddad, Scout

Public: Justin Haddad, Deanna Haddad, Jay's parents

1. Open meeting/introduction

2. Approval of minutes from September 18, 2019

Christine Lavoie made motion to accept

Lon Woods, second

5-0-2 motion passed (abstained, Maureen Hall, Shannon Barnes)

3. Jay Haddad presentation – converting a cabin into a changing room. Jay is a junior at MHS, Troop 424. He is a Life Scout, and Jr. Assistant Scout Master, on the road to Eagle Scout.

See handout – cabin is currently used for storage. Purpose: create 7 changing stalls, 2 of which are large enough for families/handicap. Adding railings.

Cost/Fundraising: Jay will lead fundraising events, supervising. Cost: \$1,676.28, more or less. Fundraising: bake sales outside Shaw's, Market Basket.

Timing: starting today; Town Council presentation 12/12/19; Troop committee approval 1/8/20; Eagle Board 2/11/20; Fundraising 2/11/20 – 3/31/20 (3 days total to raise money); Assembling changing rooms 3/1/20 – 6/1/20; Bathroom lights/painting 5/1/20 – 6/15/20 (2 days total); Done: late June

QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS: Julie Poole: question about permits; Answer – permit will be pulled; Matt Casparius explained that cabin is known as old life guard shack; ADA questions: ramp would cost \$2k, consider for future; railing will be added, but does not make ADA compliant

MOTION: Julie Poole, moved

Christine Lavoie, second;

Vote: 9-0-0

4. Old Business

Wasserman Park – Beach Project update - meeting with town council on 11/21/19

11/21/19 – discussing with Town Council about Wasserman Park history; then discussion on beach; fact gathering and “where we’re at”;

Ice skating rink – Watson park – likely opening next month; public works proposal to do it this year; DPW pitch to council 11/21/19

DOG PARK - \$2,896.59 fund balance; winter prepped; cleaning done; broken chairs set by dumpster; request for funds for \$600 for additional clean wood chips – approx. 20 yards;

MOTION: \$600 for playground wood chips; Shannon Barnes, moved, Rick Grenier, second; Vote: 9-0-0

Hillary Baird is stepping down; need to fill 2 spots

5. Director's Report

Halloween party – huge turnout; parking on Naticook road;

Consider possible different space because of size;

Consider possible shuttle from veterans park

It was a challenge getting police volunteers for event; need more organized parking detail;

Consider small group coordinating/training with police detail for parking

Scavenger Hunt – Saturday 11/23/19; 12 clues; each clue takes you to the next clue; each person is going to have a different series of clues, not going in same order; 1st 3 families win 17 lb turkey; 2 hour event; no volunteers needed this year;

Candy Cane Scavenger Hunt/Holiday parade, tree lighting – 12/8/19 – Sunday

Candy Cane Scavenger Hunt – partnered with Macaroni Kid; 2-3pm; Twin Bridges park; candy canes and golden tickets to win other prizes; 700 people registered so far

Parade – Commons Shopping Plaza start; theme – SUPER HEROES; 15-16 floats so far; needs volunteers 1:30 – 3:15 to get floats in order at Tractor Supply

Tree Lighting – Abbey Griffin – starts 3:45pm; when Santa gets there; Broadway Bound doing dance number; Ms. Merrimack singing; food from girl scouts; 3:45 – 4:30

BUDGET:

General fund – almost same as last year; normal variances

P. 6 – infrastructure change

Resurfacing 7 courts at Wasserman (last time done 15 years ago)

Demolition of 3 cabins; 2 of 3 have structural issues; rafters pulling apart; need roofs, tree moving building sideways; 24k

Cabins are run down; can't make headway on piecemeal fixing;

Shannon Barnes – question about skate park budget; Matt Casparius– bundled in building grounds/maintenance; 2240/year;

Shannon Barnes – basketball court; Matt Casparius – not this year; no specific plans to do additions.

Revolving fund – all programs PR runs (250) are entirely self-funded; no tax income to pay for; large number of programs are small classes; some programs are try/fail;

All programs tasked with paying part of salaries – for next year, amount coming from programs will be less; next year – 54k contribution from programs to pay portion of costs/salaries

Take 8 largest programs – day camp, swimming lessons, wilderness, medical training, murder mystery dinner, + 3 more

Day camp increasing capacity to 105 kids per week; TREK going to 40 kids per week;

Started revolving fund 4 years ago; 4 years ago, running much fewer programs; now 250 programs

6. Upcoming Meeting – budget meeting with Town Council on 1/15/2020, which conflicts with Parks/Recs meeting; could meet in December and skip January; surgery for Matt 12/12/19 – out 4-5 days; option for next Parks/Recs meeting - 1/22/20 or 1/29/20

MOTION: Shannon Barnes moved for next meeting to take place on - 1/22/20, Christine Lavoie, second; Vote - 9-0-0

7. ORGANIZATION REPORTS:

Senior Citizens Club, Maureen Hall - Mt Washington boat trip; success on 10/19/19; Johnny Mathis sold out, 12/4/19; bus full; Christmas party for seniors 12/7/19; American legion for seniors

MYA – Rick Grenier – fall sports wrapped up; winter sports are about to begin; website is currently down and being rebuilt; each sport has their own site, below;

Myabasketball.leaguetoobox.com

www.myawrestling.org

www.myalax.com

www.myasoftball.org

www.myabaseball.com

<https://myasoccer.org>

www.merrimackcards.org

Town Council – Lon Woods - waiting for Parks/Recs to come to Town Council meeting 11/21/19

School Board – Shannon Barnes – working on budgets; turf field is not going on upcoming budget; going out to voters; need more solid funding plan and donations so not a direct burden to tax payers; budget will be status quo;

Student rep – Abbie Cote - winter coat drive ending 12/13/19; particularly need men's clothing; thanksgiving break starts next week; football has ended; lost to Exeter in semifinals – but amazing season;

8. Comments from the Public – NONE

9. Comments from the Committee – NONE

10. Future Meeting dates: by vote – 1/22/20

11. Adjourn: MOTION – Shannon Barnes, moved to adjourn; Maureen Hall, second; Vote - 9-0-0