

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Swanzey Recreation Advisory Committee
October 19, 2020
Whitcomb Hall

Note: Draft Minutes are subject to review, correction and approval by the Board. Review and approval of Minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

A meeting of the Swanzey Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) was called to order at 6:00pm by Recreation Director Ashlee Crosby. Present were Chair Michael Candello, Recreation Director Ashlee Crosby, Polly Seymour, Misty Hall, and Heather Daniels.

ABSENT

Tom Little

NEW DIRECTOR

Aaron Cherry's last day as Director was on Saturday, October 3rd. Ashlee Crosby's first day was Monday, September 21, 2020, allowing for a two week over lap in Directors. Crosby is a life-long resident of the town, with a background in youth and adult sports and camps.

SOCCER SEASON

- Soccer season is coming to a successful end, with all the participants receiving certificates and soccer pins.
- We are very lucky to have Haley Daniels step in to help referee games in the youth 8-12 group.
- Sadly, three junior goals where ruined this season, but age seems to have had a factor. We currently have two set of junior goals, two sets of middle goals, and two steel goals. Still working to confirm locations of all equipment.
- Seymour asked about location of white soccer goals that where purchased for an adult league at Cutler. Crosby will contact Cutler to find out more.

JACK O' LANTERN SCAVENGER HUNT

- 10 Jack O' Lanterns have been placed around town for people to find and draw.
- Great response on Facebook, and has been sent home as a school drop
- Pumpkins have been refreshed as on Sunday 10/18 with printed pumpkins in hopes of lasting the last two weeks.

VIRTUAL HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

- We have 26 entries for our Virtual Halloween Costume Contest. Collected from 10/1 to 10/16.
- Voting has begun today, Monday 10/19 and closed on Friday, 10/30.
- Some entries already had 40+ reactions

RICHARDSON PARK BATHROOM

Crosby shared one of the goals before summer camp next year will be to redo the bathrooms at Richardson Park. She is working with Mike Jasmine to get designs in hand. We are considering five bathrooms/changing rooms, located up by the parking lot. Two would be family and three would be single, all would be ADA compliant.

FEEDBACK & CONCERN

Hall asked about the possibility of camper only bathrooms. Crosby stated it hasn't been considered but will be added to the conversation on design.

BASKETBALL SEASON

Crosby shared that a new location was going to be needed for the basketball season, since Cutler is not allowing outside groups to use the space. She is working with Jim Fennell at the Homestead Mills on an agreement to use their soon to be installed basketball court. First round of proposal was to rent the space for 8 weeks for \$750, but wasn't accepted. Fennell charges \$60/hr to rent space. Crosby shared that she was looking to grant opportunities to purchase basketball equipment to install at the Mills for the use of the space. Daniels shared the Good Sport Grant as possibility. A big concern was one to no spectators allow would limit the number of children signing up. The search for a referee has begun as well.

Decision was made to send out a basketball survey, like soccer, to get public feedback. Crosby is to reach out to Andy Bohannon (City of Keene) and Tom Cote (MRHS Athletic Director) to see how they are running as well. Advised to contact Jim Hill to work around the Husky Pups.

WHITCOMB HALL

Potential usages for Whitcomb Hall;

- Family Movie Nights
- Yoga
- Craft Fair

Crosby will be working on making these a possibility, be this winter or spring

LANE FIELDS & BROWN FIELD AGREEMENTS

Current agreements were passed around for feedback. All concerns and feedback will be taking into consideration when renewing the agreements and final copies will be sent to the committee for final approval.

CONCERNS WITH LANE FIELDS

- Lack of keys to buildings on property
- Start time on the weekends and holidays has been reported earlier than 8am
- Lack of schedules being provided

- Subletting the fields for a profit
- Other groups seem to have priority over Cal Ripken
- Closing bathrooms, using port-a-potties instead
- Deplorable field conditions on most fields
- Cleanliness of the grounds
- Alcohol use at the fields during tournaments
- Banners not being removed nor paid to keep up all season. Also, bars are advertised which isn't very kid friendly

CONCERNS WITH BROWN FIELD

- Subletting the field when permission to sublet is not stated in the agreement
- Lack of schedules being provided
- Cleanliness of the field

COMMITTEE MEMEBERS

Currently four active members, five if confirmation from Tom Little is received by next meeting. Daniels still needs to be sworn in and will work on that before the next meeting. At November's meeting consideration for alternatives will be discussed.

POTASH BOWL

Crosby shared she will be in touch with Lee Dunham to look into summer concerts and look to fixing issues with the stage. Ideas for other possible usages are, Summer movie nights with a food truck and ice cream sundaes.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Seymour shared information on public skating that we have done in the past at Keene Ice. The cost is \$250 for a 50-minute time slot, but allows Swanzey Residents a specific time slot to skate. Beth is the contact at the rink
- Seymour also shared an interested in holding an outside hockey tournament again if we are able to building a ice rink this winter. Crosby will talk with the Fire Chief on freezing a spacing in town, may it be AA park or Brown Field.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Next meeting will be held on either November 16th or 17th depending on availability at Whitcomb Hall. Crosby will send an email with the final date and time, once confirmed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashlee Crosby, Recreation Director