

The Strafford Recreation Board believes that recreation is critical to a healthy mind and body and that recreation enriches our community and our connection to one another.

With that in mind..

The mission of the Strafford Recreation Board is to provide well-maintained town recreation facilities and encourage outdoor recreation for all ages.

Agenda for September Recreation Board Meeting

Date: 9/18/17

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Newton School Library

In attendance: Christa Wurm, Hillary Linehan, Meg Albee, Dave Taplin, Dave Mascoveta, Jodi Lowes, Lauren Phelps.

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting were approved.
2. Success and challenges of summer projects and programs were discussed. Tetra Brazil Soccer camp in August served 20 kids in the session for 3 – 10 year olds and 5 kids in the older division. Numbers continue to decline. Hilary Linehan has agreed to coordinate this program for one more year. In 2018 the same camp will be offered for the tentative dates of August 13 -17. However, we will require a minimum number of 10 participants to be registered 10 days before each camp or it will be canceled.
Jedi Camp was coordinated and run by Christa Wurm and Emily Girdwood in June. The camp served 10 students ages 4-11. It was a huge success and provided participants with a creative and active outlet to explore. Future possibilities to host the camp or variations of the camp were discussed. In terms of maintenance work, the stone wall behind the red barn was not completed due to lack of large stones.
Chips were put down on pre-school playground and Newton playground.
3. The board discussed the possibility of inviting outside proposals for future summer camps.
4. The board set a date of October 28 from 8:00 am to 12:00 for the Red Barn Clean Out. We hope that other organizations that use the red barn will also be present to clean out their items. This will include: Newton School, Newton PTA, The Girl Scouts and The Creative Pre School. Strafford residents are encouraged to come by during the clean out hours to drop off potential donations for the red barn. However, it is important to note that not all donations will be accepted and it will be the owners' responsibility to remove all donations that are not accepted.

5. Strafford resident Dave Mascoveta attended the meeting to discuss the Strafford ice rink. Dave has over 20 years of experience constructing ice rinks, making ice and maintaining ice rinks.
Estimated costs, location and maintenance of the rink were discussed including some ways to make the rink easier to maintain. Ellen and Christa will work with Dave to develop a survey with the intent of gathering information from Strafford residents on if they will use the rink, if they will donate their time and energy to build and maintain a rink and if they can donate money for improvements. The results of the survey will be reviewed at our next meeting.
6. The Recreation Board wants to provide Strafford residents with easy access to the resources in the Red Barn. However, many random items that cannot be used are left in the Red Barn when it is open. The Recreation Board invites community members to contact any Recreation Board member by phone or email to gain access to the Red Barn. Additionally, Recreation Board members will host one Saturday each season when the Red Barn will be open for the same hours as Trash and Recycling. Residents are encouraged to drop by to borrow items from the red barn and leave appropriate items with a recreation board member who is present.
7. Jodi Lowes and Lauren Phelps from The Creative Preschool attended the meeting to discuss necessary repairs and upkeep to the playground equipment at The Creative Preschool. It is important to note that the Creative Preschool playground is located on town land that is managed by The Recreation Board. The structures on the Preschool Playground were initially purchased by The Newton PTA when the kindergarten was located in the Rosa Tyson basement. With multiple organizations involved in the purchase and management of the area, upkeep and improvement becomes a bit confusing. Several of the structures have been repaired by volunteers from the preschool but it is time for new equipment. The need for new or improved outdoor equipment has been confirmed by the insurance company. The preschool board will return to the Recreation Board meeting in January to discuss their hopes and we will clarify how to move forward with funding, fundraising and upkeep.

Next meeting is scheduled for: Weds Oct 25 7:00 pm at the Newton School Library.