

Strafford Recreation Board Meeting
September 14, 2020 5:30pm
Pocket Park

Board members present: Jason Loomis, Dave Taplin, Hilary Linehan, Leslie Berger, Krista Wurm

Members of the public present: Barbara Smith; Jack and Tori Lloyd, arrived a 5:45, left at 6pm; Laura DeCapua arrived 5:50pm, left at 6:30pm

1. Ice rink planning – The rink can't go on the planned area at the school, so it will need to remain in the same location on Murray Field. Due to the amount of work and the limited use in the last few years, the current Rec board members don't have the capacity to get the rink going and maintain it. Jason will post to list serve to try to find someone to take over.
2. Playground outstanding needs – There is an issue with the gate locking mechanism that is being taken care of by the preschool, according to an email received by the preschool director.
3. Discussion on community wide scheduling calendar – There was discussion on a way to have all the events in town feed into one calendar, probably located on the town website. Focusing specifically on school events, sports games and practices and town committee and board meeting times. Hilary will ask the selectboard liason about the possibility of making this happen. This also led to a discussion about moving to a model similar to other towns in terms of hiring a Recreation Coordinator to oversee all of the sports, similar to other towns in the area. Currently the Principal is doing the majority of the work for athletics run by the school. Discussion will continue at next meeting, to consider a proposal to the town in time for budgeting season.
4. Follow up on red barn painting by John F - The student hired to do this work went back to school so John is finishing it up.
5. Retaining Wall discussion – The wall looks great, work is going well. The first half is mostly done, the second half should be completed within the next two weeks.
6. Camp discussion – tabled
7. Open Red Barn dates/new lock – dates will be scheduled at our October meeting. The board received an email from GiGi Granger about Red Barn access. Appropriate access and replacing the locks will be investigated by Dave and Jason and fixed as necessary.
8. Newton Athletics portapotty – The school is running soccer according to VPA guidelines. Most area (SU) elementary schools are not playing games, it will be skills based, all in Strafford. All teams are using Murray field and practices start next week. Going inside the gym building is not allowed to go inside to use the bathrooms. Rec board agreed to pay for it, Laura will ensure the school can clean according to guidelines, and it can be

locked when not in use. The school will be responsible for maintaining necessary cleaning protocols

9. Potential recreational opportunities to offer – tabled
10. Target soccer net (if schools close) purchase to put on soccer goals for summertime. Dave will investigate costs and report back at the next meeting.
11. Role and responsibilities of the Rec Manager
12. Prioritized use of tennis courts – There was discussion on the role of the Rec Manager and their duties. It seems there was a lack of communication by the board to the Rec Manager at times when the board was asked how to handle some uses of the tennis courts. There was discussion about use of the tennis courts by wheeled vehicles like bikes, scooters, skateboards and roller skates. Currently there are no official use rules, simply common courtesy of everyone to keep the area in good shape. The board will look at putting up a small sign with common sense rules and also post to the list serv. The group will bring ideas to the next meeting. One idea is “Please respect your neighbors, first come first served, though please respect others wanting to use the facility and limit your use if people are waiting”. The board, at the end of the meeting, walked over to the courts to inspect, and was surprised to find damage to the surface of the tennis courts in several places. The damage is new this year, and is in the form of small divots into the surface of the asphalt. We noted at least 4 or 5 spots where this has happened to the tennis courts. Hilary will contact the court building company to see if these can be covered over to prevent water from getting in to make it worse over winter. The board agreed that wheeled use needs to happen outside the tennis court lines, and this information will be posted to the list serve by Jason. We also investigated some options that were discussed for skateboards and ramps, and it was agreed that Jack Lloyd would investigate how to get a skatepark going, and Hilary would contact TES about theirs. Additionally, the Rec Board will ask the selectboard if we could fence off the back area of the park & ride for this purpose. Hilary will contact the Rec Board liaison. The Rec board will look into grants to provide ramps.
13. The Rec Board's relationship with the SAA – tabled
14. Steps in pocket park – Barbara Smith asked if steps could be put in down to the river from an area of the pocket park. Rec Board will ask the selectboard if this is possible.
15. The Board received an email from Lys Ray about putting down pickeball lines. After some discussion, the board requests those wanting lines to use chalk for now, and the board will look into this for next year.
16. Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.