

**CHAPLIN
RECREATIONCOMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting
Meeting Minutes *Amended
Chaplin Town Hall, 7:00 P.M.
January 19, 2017**

Call to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members present: Chairman Matthew Foster, David Stone, Matthew Cunningham, John Smith

Absent: Gary Bennett, Paul Deveny, Tim Barr

Alternates Seated: None

Also present: Elizabeth Marsden, Recording Clerk

Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2016 meeting: M. Cunningham moved to approve minutes, M. Foster seconded the *motion*, John Smith abstained, D. Stone in favor, *motion* carried.

Audience of Citizens: None

Communications:

M. Cunningham read an email from Gary Bennett received tonight at 6:24 p.m. G. Bennett proposes having T-Ball go through Little League rather than through Rec. He feels that the kids aren't learning the game as well as they could be, and he wants to merge with Little League and have those coaches teach T-Ball so kids have better coaching.

Discussion of this proposal will be under Sports Programs.

Old Business:

Building and Field: Barn now has lights and electrical, said M. Cunningham. Town has 2 pallets of fertilizer for spring, none spread this past fall.

Park Building: Snack bar has been shut down.

Sports Programs:

T-Ball: M. Cunningham wants it to stay with Rec. While our ad hoc team of volunteer coaches may not be the best, they make the program work. If Little League would have some of their coaches come and coach in Chaplin, that

would be welcome. M. Foster said that watching the kids, he can see that a lot of the kids are not learning more than the very basics. D. Stone said that it would be very simple to base Chaplin's program on Little League's T-Ball standards. M. Foster said they did that last year and D. Stone said it is a good program. J. Smith said that with only 8 weeks playing once per week, the kids won't learn as much as they would if they played more than once per week. J. Smith also said that having a group that is designated to handle T-Ball would be ideal, as M. Foster now is the one who has to handle it along with basketball and his other responsibilities.

T-Ball is financially self-supporting, although it doesn't generate a profit. M. Cunningham suggests inviting Little League representatives to a Rec Meeting to see if they can resolve things. Also have G. Bennett come and give us his suggestions and concerns. M. Foster said that G. Bennett hasn't seen the new program they have and offered to get him a copy to look over as well. J. Smith said that maybe it could be a team effort; use Chaplin's insurance and volunteers and bring in whatever coaching, knowledge and skills Little League can offer. Special meeting will be needed for this discussion, even if informally. D. Stone will contact LL coaches to get this set.

Basketball: Discussion moved to New Business.

Special Activities:

New Business:

Landscaping Talks: 2 sugar maples were planted to replace the cherry trees in the playground and are doing well.

Soccer: M. Cunningham did not secure a contact with Willington/Ashford/Mansfield Soccer (WAM UNITED or WAM). J. Smith does have contacts with WAM, but it's a large program and can be somewhat disorganized. Members discussed WAM at length. J. Smith and M. Cunningham will attend a future WAM meeting TBD to explore possible ways to work with that program.

M. Foster suggested that they choose a program (one sport most likely to succeed) to grow with a good structured program, and put some real funding into it (3-6 grade program). M. Foster said Soccer seems more popular than baseball. After discussion, the commission members concluded that training volunteer coaches to become certified coaches would be a good option. M. Cunningham will reach out to Ray Reid, the most well-known and respected coaching trainer and program development person in CT and even the east coast. Other commission members identified additional good programs.

J. Smith suggested sending notices home with kids reaching out to parents about soccer and getting their feedback and ideally, a committed group of parents for an ad hoc soccer committee. Members agreed that soccer seems to be the right sport as a pilot program to focus on.

Basketball: M. Foster said 2 weeks of games were missed due to weather, now need to add extra hours each week for make-up games. There are 42 kids in younger kids' basketball. M. Foster has a high school basketball player coaching and good group of parents helping -- we only usually have one scorekeeper, it helps to have a second helper for scoring. J. Smith suggested paying a teenager \$10 per game in time for the playoffs. After some discussion, it was agreed that hiring someone would be a good expenditure.

J. Smith moved to allocate \$500.00 from Special Revenue to pay a basketball scoreboard operator, M. Cunningham seconded the ***motion***, all in favor, ***motion*** carried.

J. Smith moved to set the rate of pay for a scoreboard operator at \$10 per game from Special Revenue, M. Foster clarified that this will be for Saturday 3-6 grade Rec basketball. D. Stone seconded the ***motion***, all in favor, ***motion*** carried.

M. Foster discussed that in basketball play-offs, other towns have more of a production with lights, music etc. We have access to a PA system with wireless mics, spotlights, etc. D. Stone knows a DJ who can provide equipment and maybe even run it at the play-off games in end of Feb, beginning of March.

Shoot-a-thon needs a date and volunteers, grades 3-6. Typically Rec buys prizes/trophies for each grade group's best shooter and highest \$ donations gathered. J. Smith suggests the Sunday before play-offs. Elementary School is crowded but J. Smith favors the elementary school location.

M. Foster still wants to check out the high school for the location. The location was not decided. Needs: Trophies, participation ribbons, misc supplies.

D. Stone moved to allocate \$300.00 from Special Revenue, to purchase supplies for the Shoot-a-Thon, M. Cunningham seconded the ***motion***, all in favor, ***motion*** carried.

M. Foster asked for volunteers for the Shoot-a-Thon, J. Smith said he would help the day of. Some additional discussion continued. M. Foster will look into finalizing the date and the location.

J. Smith moved to solicit and collect donations in connection with the Shoot-a-Thon, which funds will become Special Revenue for future Recreation Dept activities. D. Stone seconded the ***motion***, all in favor, ***motion*** carried.

Archery: M. Foster said Columbia Sports offers one of their instructors, \$6-7 per participant per hour, Rec could then charge a little more, maybe \$10/hour and it would be a group activity. Will need to pre-register and it would be on Saturdays. J. Smith asked if they would come to Garrison Park. M. Cunningham mentioned Paul's Archery in Andover and Manchester and that he thinks they would come to Chaplin. He doesn't know the cost, but he will call Paul's to see what the fee would be for instructors to come to Garrison Park.

Playscape: Need longer chains for swings, because the substrate surface (wood chips) is a foot low now. M. Cunningham will take care of the issue. Financial overruns: M. Cunningham said they overspent by \$8,000 and that does not include the \$5,000 grant. Dick Weingart is researching the issue of where the grant money went; it was definitely received by the town. All expenses went through CIP. M. Cunningham thinks Rec should take the overspent amount from its budget to resolve and again, Mr. Weingart is researching. Phase II of the Playscape will also cost \$30,000.

Recreation Director: M. Cunningham said Windham Recreation isn't interested in collaborating. M. Cunningham wants to advertise again. J. Smith and M. Foster said that it is more of a program development and administration job, but it is also a physically demanding position as well.

**Dates for 2017 Recreation Commission Regular Meetings
(Third Thursday of each month):**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
19	16	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	19	16	21

M. Foster moved to accept the dates for the 2017 Recreation Commission meetings calendar, J. Smith seconded the ***motion***, all in favor, ***motion*** carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer is absent. M. Foster reported in treasurer's absence. Period ending Dec 30, 2016:

Special Revenue Fund: \$12,073.55

Total in Budget: \$16,456.83

* General Fund: \$16,456.83

M. Cunningham mentioned that Paul Deveny is still listed as Vice Chair rather than Treasurer on the town website. M. Cunningham will have the Town Clerk correct that.

Other Business:

Bicycle Rodeo: M. Cunningham is planning and organizing a bicycle rodeo for either spring or summer. It will be backed and taught by AAA teaching bicycle safety, Dicks Sporting Goods and Walmart donating bikes and helmets, teaching safety and M. Cunningham will handle the entire event. Date TBD. The event will be held as a Recreation Dept event.

Community Center Stage: Removal of stage in community center has been started. Steve Laume has cut trim they want to save. M. Foster asked how much of a stage has been left, M. Cunningham said there is enough for a bingo caller on the side wall. The pickleball court will be a full-sized court, and the space can accommodate potential additional activities such as volleyball, yoga, karate, ping pong. Need to change lights for volleyball or basketball; existing lights are compact florescent lights and sports that hit balls that high means there is a need for light cages or replacement lights. M. Cunningham has a friend who does tile work and will do labor for free.

Adjournment:

J. Smith moved to adjourn, D. Stone seconded the ***motion***, all in favor, ***motion*** carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Marsden
Recording Clerk

Tape #17