

WOODBIDGE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

John Adamovich – Recreation Director

11 Meetinghouse Lane
Woodbridge, CT 06525
203-389-3446

RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 24, 2022

IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNOR LAMONT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER #7b.
SECTION 1, WHICH SUSPENDS THE OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF IN-
PERSON PARTICIPATION, AUDIO AND VIDEO OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING WILL
BE TELEVISED ON youtube@wgatv79 IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO VIEW
AND LISTEN TO THE MEETING. YOU MAY ACCESS IT HERE AT:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqxwpHRZUcs>

PRESENT:

Commission Members present: Mary Alvarado, William DeRosa, Michael Helfenbein, Smith Mowry, Jane Shernow, and Andrea Weinstein

Staff: John Adamovich, Recreation Director, Theresa Bahner, Pool Director, Christopher Bahner, Assistant Pool Director, David Cohen, Recreation Senior Supervisor,

Board of Selectmen: David Vogel

Board of Finance: Dwight Rowland

Meeting Host: Jon DeMayo

Recorder: Jim Franco

- 1) Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm
- 2) Public Comments: no public comments

3) Minutes: **Michael Helfenbein made a motion to approve the minutes from Monday, December 6, 2021. Andrea Weinstein seconded the motion.** Theresa's name was spelled wrong in section D, line 4. Under item 6, funeral was spelled wrong. Under letter G, four lines up, the word should be started instead of starting **All voted in favor.** (Jane was not present for this vote)

4) Liaison report: David Vogel – Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen waived the Farm Stand Regulation that only what is grown in Woodbridge can be sold at the farm stands. Other topics discussed: Bulk trash charges were looked at. They are considering pay as you go. Community grants. Five year strategic plan. American rescue funding plan from the pandemic. A 4:2 vote on a Land Trust conservation easement was rejected. There was a 4:2 vote moving forward with the Arbor Haven plan. Dave stated that he was not in favor of the Arbor Haven plan. Next, it will need to go to a referendum. He mentioned that there was no movement on the Old Firehouse. It will also need to go to referendum. Dwight said that the architect still has the Fitness Center in the plan. Andrea reminded David that repairs need to be made to the gazebo, and to the Center Building, near the old clock. David mentioned that Tony is still looking into the tent with COVID funding. Dwight Rowland – Board of Finance. Operating Budget hearings will be this Tuesday, Thursday, and next Tuesday. The Commission

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asked Jim to get the link for the budget hearing. Smith inquired about the bike trail. Dwight said it is being worked on with the sidewalks to the high school and town center project. Andrea brought up about the bike event on May 14th. Dwight said there is a conflict with first communion that day. He was referred to speak with Betsy about this because it is her program.

5) Chairman's Report/Vice Chairman's report: Andrea mentioned that the Town is keeping people safe with mask and test kit distribution. Masks are to be worn in all Town buildings. Recreation is playing a huge role in keeping people healthy. John, Chris, Theresa, Dave, and Jon are doing a great job, and thank you to everyone. Smith's report was dedicated to the pool this month. The pool opened in the Beecher South School in 1972. Theresa and Chris started working in the pool in 1999. They were both swim instructors, lifeguards, and developed the swim team readiness program. Theresa has been Pool Director for 17 years. She has worked with the school to develop their adaptive swim program, the boys' and girls' scout programs, summer camp, and the triathlon. She has taught many, and some have become swim instructors. She has the moto, which she got from John, that when there is a will, there is a way. She thanks Dave for his help. Smith thanks Chris and Theresa.

6) Pool: Theresa said that we've opened as many spots as possible in swim lessons. Social distancing is practiced, and parents observe from the hallways with masks on. In the spring, we will take as many as possible while observing a safe environment. Level one has six students. Level two has six to eight students, and level three has eight students. We are creating a positive experience because we had a two-year gap between lessons. Andrea supports the small ratio. Theresa states that swimming is not like other sports, if you are not safe, you can drown. John states Chris and Theresa do a fabulous job. She knows safety, and really cares. He thanked her. Smith asked about the school's learn to swim program. Anthony Taddei has not approached the Rec. Dept. about that program.

7) Personnel: Allen Liu for swim instructor. Allen has passed his background check and sex offender list check. He will be making minimum wage at \$13.00 per hour. **Jane Shernow made a motion to approve Allen Liu for swim instructor. Mary Alvarado seconded the motion. All voted in favor.** John will check with Tony with what the summer camp vaccination requirements will be for counselors.

8) Director's Report:

A) Fitness Center: Fine, well cleaned. The fitness center would have cuts, if the budget needs to be cut. John had a conversation with Rob about masks. Masks must be worn at all times, or else it will be shut down. Jim mentioned that he makes spot checks during the weekday, daytime hours that the fitness center is open.

B) Outdoor Facilities: Parks closed

C) Tennis Courts/Skating Rink: Skating rink open sunrise to sunset. John's goal is to have two skating nights in January, four nights in February, and two nights in March with a hot chocolate night. He will check with the Fire Dept. to make arrangements for lights. John explained that the former Country Club property tennis courts would be a good spot for the rink, because electricity would be there. We opened on the 21st. Eight people on the first day, followed by thirty, then sixty, and then thirty-one. Jack Marlowe was the first skater. Bill suggested hockey nights along with a way to keep the ice in shape. There will be no hockey at the rink due to the possibility of sticks ripping the

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liner. Jim mentioned that he spoke with the Orange Parks and Recreation Director, and he mentioned that it was sticks that ripped their liner. John thanked Public Works for all their work. They did a fantastic job, especially Timmy and his crew. Michael mentioned that it was wonderful to see children skating all day, over the weekend. Andrea wanted to make sure it was on the webpages and Facebook. Jim mentioned that it was on the Town's Facebook page and the Woodbridge Town News. Smith mentioned that he saw it on the Woodbridge forum. John said that there are benches, along with matting so that the tennis courts will not be damaged. Everything is fenced in along with a garbage pail.

D) Programs and Sports Programs are fine. The Thursday night basketball league is going well. No adult spectators. Two teams play at a time, and then another two teams come in. No more than twenty are in the gym at a time. John said how great the badminton program is, but how expensive the birdies have become. Dwight stated that Beth-Wood Baseball bought two new scoreboards for the Acorn Hill fields. April 30 will be opening day, held at the Town Green.

E) Financial Report: The current expenses are at \$279,779.89 which is at 54.8%. We are 4.8% over where we should be. John explained that it is due to the extra money spent for COVID cleanup and summer camp cost for first week of June. Jim adds that due to camp, our expenses are always above at the beginning of the fiscal year, and we catch up during the year. This year it is just taking a little longer. Last year at this time, we were at \$123,038.84. It was 38.3%. The current income is \$69,914.19 at 38.7%. The percentage of Rec. fees paid by credit card is 93.4%. Income at this time last year was \$36,091.18, that is 29.5 %. A discussion arose about passing along the credit card fees. Michael reminded everyone that Recreation went up four percent when we first started taking credit cards. Jim also added that we go up in our fees two percent every year.

F) Emergency Plan: In progress.

9) Policies and Procedures: none

10) Correspondence- A) Field Requests: Jim explained that Parks Director Adam Parsons, told him that the Pease Road fields will be closed until April 18th. They will also be closed all of July, and the first two weeks of August, due to overseeding and filling up the holes with topsoil around the goal areas. There are no backup locations for soccer and lacrosse to use during this closure. Jim said that the field requests are the same as they have been in previous years. **Smith Mowry made a motion to approve the Spring 2022 field requests. Mary Alvarado seconded the motion. All voted in favor.**

11) Other Business: none

Next meeting February 28, 2022 7 pm

12) **Jane Shernow made a motion to adjourn. Michael Helfenbein seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.**