**Hardwick Recreation Committee Minutes**

**May 9, 2017 6:30PM**

**Hardwick Senior Center**

Present: Joe Brosseau, Nicole Miller, Derek Williams, Ron Wiesen, Kathy Hemmens

Absent: Katharine Ingram

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:35PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes were unanimously approved following a motion by Ron and a second by Nicole.

**Monthly Finance Report:** Kathy reviewed the finances , reporting that the Committee had $8,297.82 remaining in its budget at the end of April. Expenditures during April were for the following items: final payment to the former Coordinator; Green-Up Day expenses; and reimbursement to the REACH program for skiing program expenses. Joe reported that he is still exploring the possibility of purchasing a used camper or other suitable vehicle to be renovated for use as a warming shed at the skating rink. He has discussed this use of some of the Committee’s remaining funds with the Chair of the Select Board and will continue to explore this possibility. The Finance Report was unanimously approved following a motion by Derek and a second by Nicole.

**Project Updates:**

**Swim Program:** Nicole reported that the swim program is on target for this summer. She is also working with an organization out of Newport called NEK Swim that is trying to develop the infrastructure to offer swim programs throughout the Northeast Kingdom. If this effort works, it will ensure that a swim program will be available for Hardwick kids.

**Green-Up Day:** Green-Up Day suffered from the bad weather, according to Ron, which meant that there were fewer participants than in previous years. The publicity about “no tires” was successful, and the volunteers did not have to deal with discarded tires. So far, only $250 has been expended on the event, but there will be more expenses to come. Ron plans to approach Rep. Chip Troiano about the possibility of introducing a “tire deposit” law, like a bottle deposit law, to reduce the number of tires discarded along our roadways.

**Website and Calendar:** The Committee formally voted to discontinue the Recreation website and calendar and to post information about Rec. events and opportunities on the Town website, the Community Calendar, and Front Porch Forum. The vote was unanimous, following a motion by Ron Wiesen and seconded by Derek Williams. Joe reported that Katharine Ingram has talked with Susan Wood about the possibility of making some changes on the Community Calendar that will make it work better for the Recreation Committee. More to come on this.

**Other Business:**

**New Coordinator position:** The Committee approved the newspaper Ad drafted by Kathy with a couple of minor changes. Kathy will take care of getting it in the Gazette and on FPF. Joe will post the Ad on Craigslist, and we will have the Ad and the Job Description posted on the Town website. Nicole and Ron also have outlets where they can advertise the position. Jon Jewett will receive resumes and forward them to the Committee.

**Springfest participation:** The Rec. Committee will share the exhibit table at Atkins Field with Trails. Joe will make up a poster and we’ll have other materials to hand out. Kathy and Ron indicated they will help staff the table.

**Walking Tour Update:** Joe reported that the CAE is interested in this proposed project. He plans to contact various local organizations, including schools, to generate interest and participation. He plans to present the project to the Select Board as well at some point in the future.

**Skating Rink closedown:** The rink is rolled up and ready to be moved to its storage place; Joe will need some volunteer help with this, and it should be done soon.

**Senior recreation:** Kathy reported that the Growing Stronger senior exercise program may need to find new quarters in the fall; she is exploring options, but hopes to be able to stay at GRACE. Norma Spaulding is planning several easy walks/hikes on the Trails to appeal to older adults. A popular sport for older folks is Pickleball, which may be a relatively low-cost offering that the Committee could consider supporting in the future. Kathy will follow up on this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hemmens, Secretary

**The next meeting of the Committee will be June 13, 2017 at 6:30PM at the Senior Center**

**The meeting is open to the public.**