

**Town of Hardwick, Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2018, 6:30 p.m.**

**Members Present: Joe Brosseau, Ron Wiesen, Derek Williams
Recreation Coordinator: Susanne Gann
Guests: Holly Bolio, Rhonda Hess**

Minutes of January 9, 2018 meeting:

Ron moved to approve, seconded by Derek; approved unanimously. The financial report was not given, due to Kathy's absence.

Recreation Coordinator, Progress Report

1. Pickleball: The group still plays Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. I purchased the pickleballs for them, which they were very glad to receive. They have struggled several weeks this month, as basketball practice has bumped them from their time slot. The only other location would be the Elementary School. Hardwick Elementary cannot have tape laid on their floor, as it will remove the varnish. I've asked the Principal Pennock to consider painting lines on the floor, like Hazen does. I sent him another email to push him a little more on it. If he says yes, I will get a quote for the Rec Committee to consider funding the cost of it.
2. Preschool Playgroup: Jackie Stanton returned my call. The Family Center does not have the funds to start a group in Hardwick. Carrie Crozier, a Mom in town, is attempting to raise funds and support to run a group in the Open Space at the Gohl Building. I'm not certain that this is the best location for it, either, as there is no place to store materials, and the expense will be difficult to maintain. I've asked that the Hardwick Elementary principal take a close look at the gym schedule to see if 1 hour per week can be found for these kiddos. Does the committee have any other ideas or solutions to this?
3. Senior Programming:
 - a. I posted information about the Bone Builders class at the GRACE building on Tuesdays and Thursdays on the Rec Committee Facebook page and Front Porch Forum. I also created a flyer to promote it, and hung it at Tops, the post office, The Village Restaurant, the Hardwick Dental Group and the Hardwick Health Center. I have more flyers, if the committee has ideas for other locations to hang them. I received one email inquiry just two days ago as a result of one of these posts. I would be interested to know if Kathy has seen any new interest.

- b. Ceilidh Galloway-Kane and I met to work out a calendar of programming and events for seniors. It includes information about local Bone Building classes and Pickleball, and monthly events. It will also include a monthly trip and a monthly class to be located at the Senior Center. Draft calendar provided for your review and input.
 - c. Shirley Colburn notified Kathy that Hazen is open for Seniors to walk the halls from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. every day. They need to call Jodi Quinn to have their name put on a list, but no background check will be required. I spoke to Jodi and confirmed this is true; however, they don't think it would be wise to promote it, as it may not be something they could do if the group got too large. So, for now, it is something to spread via word-of-mouth only.
4. Mackville Pond Improvement Project: Kathy and I kicked the process off with a meeting with Danny Hale and Jon Jewett to better understand what we will be able to do there. The Park is in a water conservation area, which may make it difficult to get any permanent structure (pavilion, basketball court, bathrooms, etc.) approved. Jon is very concerned about this. Danny less so, as he believes if it is well-thought out and if the intent is to improve utilization of the area, then it will be approved. Both agree that focusing on the playground is a good place to begin, as it can be considered maintenance to a current structure. I also spoke with Kristen Leahy, Zoning Administrator, and she agrees with this approach. Danny's advice to us is to develop a long-term plan for what we want to do at that location, including the pavilion, shoreline buildup, bathrooms, playground, basketball court, etc.

Kathy received several catalogs from GameTime including a grant book, which has options for grants to apply for. I've reviewed the grant options and marked ones that may be applicable to this project and others that may work for other projects down the road. Holly and I met this weekend to review playground options through the Game Time catalog. We agree that a swing and slide are basic needs, but identified some add-ons that would be good options. I have been given a quote for a structure (in two phases). His quote is through Miracle Playgrounds and only includes a slide structure. The website has swing options that could be added to the quote, but he was specifically looking at providing me a \$10,000 quote. I have asked Game Time to provide me with a similar quote, including a slide structure, swing set and climbing options.

Danny emphasized that it will go a long way with the grant committee to show community support via fundraising. The Town Manager has offered concessions at Town Meeting as an opportunity for us to raise money and also present the idea to the community. Committee

support in the form of working concessions and/or making food would be necessary to move forward. Committee thoughts?

5. Movie Night: This Friday, 2/16/18 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at the Hazen Union Auditorium. Film is Titanic. After it was scheduled, the AD also rescheduled the final game of the Dave Morse Classic (basketball tournament that had to be postponed due to a storm) for the same night and time, so I'm uncertain what we will see for a turnout. I've promoted it on Facebook and Front Porch Forum, as well as posters at the high school. The Friends of HES also posted it on their Facebook page. I will post it again on FPF for delivery tomorrow and Friday. I met with Talan Bryant, Choral Director last Friday and he showed me how to operate the equipment, which I think will work fantastically. He was very supportive of the event, and the community use of the space. I will be there at 5:00 to set up and plan to stay to clean up afterwards. I plan to sell candy and snacks for benefit of Rec Committee programs. If this is a simple event to pull together, we may be able to do it monthly, and continue to do it in the summer months at Mackville.
6. Community Dance: I met with the PTO last week to discuss partnering with them for their dance in March. They were very grateful for the offer. The dance is Friday, March 16, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 pm. It is a family event, open to all ages. I will be developing a flyer. It is a St. Patrick's Day theme, and the PTO asked if we could be responsible for decorations. I would like the Rec Committee to approve a \$100 budget for decorations and glow sticks for this event.

Derek moved to approve a \$100 budget for the St. Patrick's Day Family Dance event. Ron seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

7. Easter Egg Hunt: Patty Foster contacted me and asked if we would want to do the Easter Egg Hunt this year, and if so would we like the bunny costume returned to us. I told her we would. She thought the Key Club would be willing to help us stuff eggs for the event. Holly and I discussed the event this past weekend. We agreed on filling 1500 eggs with candy and 50 golden eggs with something special (gold coins or something else). We will set a cap on the number of eggs at 10 a piece and ask older kids to help younger kids when they have hit their limit. We identified Saturday, March 31, 2018 as the day before Easter being the date to advertise. I will do a flyer and promote, and ask the school to post it in their March newsletter as well as on their sign board in front of the school. I will connect with Principal Pennock about using the playground/gym. If the weather is poor, we will use gym. We would like the Rec Committee to approve a budget of \$500 for this event.

Ron moved to approve a \$500 budget for the Easter Egg Hunt event. Derek seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

8. Dirt Divas: Alison Lamagna, Education & Exploration Program Manager for Vermont Works for Women reached out to me to inquire about the possibility of collaborating to bring the Dirt Divas summer mountain biking camp for middle school girls to the Hardwick area. They have been offering this camp in Hardwick for several years, however, they are interested in exploring a partnership with the recreation department/committee to advertise the camp and handle registrations. They would still use the same site as in the past, and we would provide the staff and implementation of the camp itself. They are exploring working with rec departments in other towns for the registration piece. They already have the forms for completion. There is a maximum of 12 attendees. They would only be looking for us to promote it and collect the registrations for them. I think this seems like something I could easily support. I told her I would speak to the committee and get their approval and let her know for sure.

The committee approved the Rec Coordinator's collaboration with Dirt Divas for promotion and registration for their summer mountain biking camp for middle school girls to the Hardwick area.