**Town of Westborough Recreation Department**

**Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes – June 18th, 2019**

Members Present: Recreation Commission Chair Early Storey, Beth Travis, Bill Clausen, Colleen Dowd, Brian Kane, and Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland. The meeting was called to order at 7:05

**Program Update**
The start of Recreation summer programs being discussed, as they were all set to begin the week of June 24th. The changes to the playground programs were discussed, with a move towards full day options with the program being available from 8:00am-4:00pm. The registration numbers being high for swim lessons were talked about, specifically the high enrollment at the lower levels. On the topic of the lake, a domestic issue which occurred at the beach was discussed, and both Jenn Kirkland and the commission agreed that the lifeguards working at the time handled the situation well.

In order to help with responsibilities across all of the different programs, there was a new position created of “Program Assistant”. Their responsibilities will change week to week, but include working as a counselor during high registration weeks, picking up supplies for an offer, and traveling to programs and sports clinics to take pictures for future brochures and advertisements.

**Summer Special Events**The special events the Recreation Department has a hand in organizing. The end of the school year party done with the Library and Youth and Family Services was planned for June 20th, and set to include pizza from Arturos and Westborough House of Pizza, a DJ, and ice cream sandwiches. The event was planned to appeal to all ages, but to focus on slightly older children. The Summer Concert Series is approaching its start, where one of the events will be held in conjunction with Screen on the Green.

The July 4th block party is also scheduled to take place on June 28th. This will be the second year it takes place at the Bay State Common.

**Facility Update**The pickleball/tennis court project on Lyman Street was discussed. With all of the rain in the spring, the painting of the lines was delayed until July. Based on the number of calls the Rec Office has received about when they’ll be open, the demand for the space should be very high. With this being said, there were questions about what the signage on the rules and regulations. It was decided to keep it 1st come 1st serve, but have signage indicating residents only for the space, as well as a time limit for play in order to help with the demand. Jenn Kirkland acknowledged citizen Nelson Ball and his contributions for the project.

The completed resurfacing project at the Haskell playground was brought up. Jenn Kirkland talked about how it was a learning experience for her, requiring change orders and adjustments to the original proposal in order to bring the swing set into compliance for fall heights. There were complements from the resurfacing company as to how well it was prepped by Storey Landscaping.

**Field Update**Mike Hightower attended the meeting in order to talk about changes to the Rogers Field that Little League President Jason Pisciotta wants to make. With how wet the spring was, the field was barely used this spring. Due to conservation restrictions in the area, material cannot to the fields in order to help with drainage. Removing the infield grass (skinning) the little league field on the right side was proposed in order to make the field usable. Little League as an organization has been opposed to skinning fields, but are open to it if the field will be playable. Other alternatives to the Roger’s Field were discussed including the Mill Pond and Hastings school fields, as well as Veteran’s Park. Veteran’s has restrictions to prevent it’s use, and the upkeep of school fields was called into question given the state of Mill Pond and Hastings.

The cricket groups in town have also enquired about the Hastings field, and believe they’d be able to co-exist with little league on the same field. Commission Chair Earl Storey spoke very highly of Nishit Mehta’s organization regarding the cricket pitch at Hennessy Field. Brian Kane spoke about a recent softball tournament, and how visitors complimented the state of the Greg’s Field. He did raise a concern about the safety of the field, given the speed with which people drive past the field on Rt. 135.

**Discussion to cease meetings until September**With the busy summers and commission members traveling for personal reasons, the meetings were to be ceased until September except for emergency situations.

**Revolving Acct Balance**The Recreation Revolving Account Balance was discussed, as it is usually at its highest before the summer bills and payrolls.