**Town of Westborough Recreation Department**

**Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2020 – 6:00pm**

Members Present: Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland, Beth Travis, Bill Clausen, Brian Kane, and Colleen Dowd

The Recreation Commission Meeting opened with Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland reading the Governor Baker statement suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law.

**COVID 19 Summer Update**

The discussion around the summer started with a discussion of canceling programs related to COVID-19. Almost all summer programming was canceled with refunds issued, and people were respectful and understanding about the decision. Outdoor programming still being run by vendors includes Best Soccer, horseback riding, golf, and outdoor adventure. There was also mention of an outdoor basketball clinic run with varsity head coaches Liz Power and Brian Willar. Office staff is still planning additional programming, either virtually or outdoor to supplement what is currently being offered. Colleen Dowd mentioned that Community Ed canceled their enrichment programs, so there is a desire and a need for programming.

Bill Clausen mentioned asking community input on ideas for what they’re looking for. Jenn noted that with the confusion around which programs are being canceled, that survey will be going out in a week or two as things start to settle down. Phase 3 of the Massachusetts re-opening is scheduled for June 29th, which will allow things to open up more. Jenn will also be meeting with the town council and insurance agent to make sure we are both compliant and covered as things start to open up more.

**Fields Update**

The fields at this time are only open for youth groups, who can only use them for practices with 10 or fewer people per playing surface. All of the fields have been turned over by commission chair Earl Storey in preparation for the opening. Phase 3 being in the near future would lead to competitions and adult leagues now being available. Little league has added restrictions and guidelines to be compliant as competitions start. With the cricket leagues all being adult leagues, they have not yet been allowed to play on the pitch.

**Discussion/Vote Lake Chauncy Opening**

There was a treatment planned to be on the town warrant. This was to help prevent algae blooms which is what caused the beach to close last year. With the town needing to cut the budget due to the impact of COVID, Jenn discussed with Board of Health Director Steve Baccari and they decided to take this treatment off of the warrant. The selectmen would like the treatment to still happen this year, and have asked if the Recreation Commission would agree to pay for it out of the Department’s revolving account. The account has enough to pay for the treatment for this year.

There is some confusion around the different things need to be done at the lake. A weed treatment is done every year to keep the swimming area sandy – that will be done this year. There is weekly bacteria testing typically done while the beach is open– this is not going to be done this year to prevent mixed messages about the status of the lake. The algae program is to prevent blue-green algae from blooming and closing the lake, which is what is being discussed here. There is also a mention of a watershed study that may happen to figure out why the algae is blooming, which would likely be a Conservation Commission project. Other town departments operate from strict budgets, and would not be able to contribute to an “unplanned” expense such as this one. Jenn’s recommendation is to pay for the treatment for this year.

Beth Travis motioned to pay for the algae program for this summer only, Bill Clausen seconds the motion. The vote passes 4-0 to pay for the program.

The Commission meeting is adjourned.