

Bridgewater Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
October 22, 2009 (DRAFT)  
Town Hall

Members Present: Catherine Vikstrom, Jim Moker, Dawn MacNutt, Jo Buchholz  
Jo Buchholz (Absent: John Flaxman)

**I. Call to order**

Catherine Vikstrom called to order the regular meeting of the Recreation Commission at 7:05 p.m. on 10/22/09 in Bridgewater Town Hall.

**II. Minutes from September 24, 2009 meeting: review, discussion, and action**

Dawn motioned to accept minutes as written. Jim Moker seconded. Unanimous and so moved.

**III. Coordinator's Report**

Ann Virbickas – Coordinator's Report – Accepted

**IV. New Business**

Bridgewater Basketball

- Catherine has found a supplier to replace the broken basketball backboard. The Bridgewater Basketball Club will purchase the new backboard and balls.
- We discussed the idea of joining the Shepaug leagues for soccer and basketball. Ann Virbickas will be asked to explore this issue with Lisa Easter (Coordinator for Washington P&R and Chairperson of Roxbury Recreation). We will resume the discussion at our next meeting.

**V. Old business**

**Tennis Courts:**

Dawn and John Flaxman have researched options for the tennis courts. Together they went and visited courts in Middlebury that had been renewed. Dawn and John collected three quotes from resurfacing at around \$22,000 (fixing cracks), \$100,000 to resurface on same existing structure and \$122,000 to completely renew. One recommendation is to re-orient the courts in Bridgewater to align north-south. Dawn shared the quote for complete renewal (from Westborough Tennis Servicing) with Bill Stuart.

Julie Stuart pointed out the selling points that we can offer taxpayers re: new tennis courts. (i.e. camp for kids, clinics for adults, and summer lessons). We had 60 children involved in tennis lessons last year. It was mentioned that New Milford just did a major renewal of their tennis courts funded partially by donations. John Flaxman will be asked to submit his quote from Putnam for fixing the cracks. It was felt that we should be proactive about capital expenses and keep the BOS informed of our progress.

**Process Planning:**

Jo led us through a process brainstorm. We identified certain steps as particularly positive, such as individual citizens being surveyed and the Board of Selectmen's role in the process. We will continue to develop plans that work for programming and renewal for capital projects. Jo will create a draft for us to review at our next meeting.

**Trunk or Treat**

The Grange is having difficulty securing helpers for their haunted house. Bridgewater Mobil joins us this year and may be willing to donate cider (or candy) to the Grange in support. The town crew will set up lights in the town trees for that night. Lois Carreira has volunteered to make a wreath for Town Hall. Jo motioned to set aside 200 dollars from the budget for the night. Julie seconded motion. Unanimous and so moved. John Flaxman found a volunteer, Sandy Keane, who will help with trunk registration. Bill Stuart has offered to hand out candy that night. The other Selectmen have also been invited. Julie will contact Michele Bennett to ask how we can support the Grange. Please come and celebrate and show your support that night even if it is for a few minutes. Dawn is doing a trunk this year.

**Pavilion Clean-Up**

Jim felt the soccer club should pay for the cleanup of the pavilion after soccer camp. Bridgewater Soccer Club (Post Office Box 53) will be charged \$75.00 for the cleaning fee. Emergency cleanup was performed by the Virbickas family prior to a weekend renter's arrival. The Commission had waived the soccer club's fee to rent the pavilion. We discussed whether or not we should continue to waive this fee. Moreover, should we charge additional fees for usage of fields for all sports? Tabled for further discussion.

**VI. Commission Membership and Planning**

Catherine asked us to think about how each of us contributes to the commission. Catherine presented two charts listing all the things we are doing or have done in the last 30 months, and requested that we consider what we did and what we would be willing to do. Julie discussed looking at the by-laws and increasing the number of members. We agree that the coordinator's role should be expanded. We will think about what volunteers are willing to do as advocates as opposed to what we'd prefer to pay someone to do. The Coordinator's job description should be re-evaluated and adapted for a possible expansion of the coordinator's role or the possible hiring of a co-coordinator. Jo reiterated the need to streamline the pavilion rental process.

**VII. Adjourn**

Catherine Vikstrom adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jo Buchholz