

Ludlow Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Ludlow Community Center – Recreation Office

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

5:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm. Members present: Sue Pollender, Joe Gurdak, Julie Barr, Pam O'Neil and Recreation Director, Howard Paul.

Comments from Citizens:

- A parent complaint about the 11 and 12-year-old baseball players getting jerseys and everyone else getting t-shirts. Yes they are more expensive, however, they will be returned to the Rec Department and used again each year. Trying to get the little league and softball teams to younger kids will get to keep t-shirts. 2 Cal Ripken teams and girls softball will.
- A citizen asked about help with fields. Concerned that you need help. Committee will resist under

New business: Howie explained the rec takes care of soccer and baseball/softball fields. What started as just helping out has become an assumption and now has become demanding. Recommendation from Recreation Board is that a letter is sent to the school talking about it changing the agreement about the maintenance and care of fields in town. Proposal that town be responsibly for town facilities or other facilities when Recreation are using them facilities. That would mean that the school has to come up with a plan. Easy fix is maintenance staff drag field, Howie could teach a works study/internship/aide position how to line fields.

Approval of Minutes:

March meeting will be approved at June meeting.

Approval of May 8, 2013 meeting minutes. Motion by Patty Rumrill, seconded by Joe Gurdak. Unanimously approved.

Director's Report: (See Attached for more detail)

- Walking: When day s weather is bad they still come inside and walk. People come in around lunches when it is quiet.
- After school program. Just finished last session of program. Recreation is not running a 5th section. School will be.
- Indoor soccer still going numbers a dropping so may end soon.
- Volleyball still going. Same people coming week after week. It is a nice

- Open Gym: Numbers are starting to dwindle.
- The community center has not seen many if any people during their weekend hours. Consider changing weekend hours the community center on weekends.
- Ludlow Little League: There are 8 teams, two t-ball teams, three 7/8 year old teams, one is based out of Mt. Holly, one 9/10 year old team and one 11/12 year old team, and a girl's softball team. Everyone has started. May 11th is Opening Day. A tentative plan is to move parade to Monday night with no games, just parade. All of the work from the Little League field has been completed. Everything that needed to be done has been done. Bathrooms, batting cage, concession stand. Varsity baseball and softball worked on field painted, set bases, built mound. Already have had some games.
- Springfield Soccer club started this past weekend. Field has been set up and ready for the rest of the season and summer. Total cost of rental is \$250.
- There were 45 people participated in Green Up Day. Continental breakfast was available for all participants as well as a BBQ lunch for everyone. Both Black River Varsity Boys baseball and Girls Softball teams participated.
- Co-ed Softball There are 8 teams up from 6. May 20th through August 1. Monday Tuesday and Thursday at Dorsey. \$450 per team with non-residents paying a \$10 non-resident fee. Changes to league will be only one umpire instead of two.

Old Business:

- Registration fees for Little League have been coming in but have not paid. Howie will send a letter to parents reminding them about payment and providing information if they are in need of a scholarship.
- Little League registration forms need to be changed to include a release of information for the school to share information that would impact/influence a child's participation in a recreation program. Also to include a place where parents mark either payment paid in full or request to be considered for a scholarship. If parent check to be considered, a place saying that the Home-school liaison will be looking at form.

New Business:

- Discussion about how to increase number of coaches participating in recreation programs. Recommendation from the committee is that the Recreation Director is not obligated to coach a team if a coach cannot be found. It is not part of the job description.

- Discussion about number games being played by recreation teams. As a practice, Ludlow Rec sets a regular schedule of 14 games and more tournaments. Girls played 2 tournaments and 14 games (18 total). Boys played 3 tournaments and 14 games. (19 games). Coaches determine practice schedule, however, games on the average twice a week during Dec, Jan, and Feb. Players lose interest if not playing or practicing regularly. With more games, there is a financial implication. Any other tournament games that incur a cost, we will charge each team the cost of one official. Ultimately, the Rec committee feels it is the parent's decision whether they want their child to participate in the practices.
- Policies and payment schedules need to be written by the Rec Committee to address coaching stipends and payment of referees. The committee will look a sample scales from Cavendish, Chester, West Springfield, and West Rutland.
- Concern that Mt. Holly is not paying their share for recreation programs. Recreation committee will work on a new fee schedule for non-residents at the request of the Select board.

Next meeting Date:

Next meeting will be June 11, 2013 at 5 pm at the Community Center.

Motion to adjourn by Patty, seconded by Julie. Unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Susan Pollender

Joseph Gurdak

Patricia Rumrill

Julie Barr

Pamela O'Neil

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela O'Neil, Secretary