

Ludlow Recreation Department
Meeting
November 19, 2009

Present: Susan Pollender, Marcia Dockum, Howard Paul, Pat Rumrill, Joe Gurdak

Guests: Gary and Leslie Boyle

Call to order: 5:06p.m.

Comments:

- Ludlow parents are unhappy with basketball being in Mt Holly. It is very difficult to schedule time in the Ludlow gym. Mt Holly's gym fits our age group and the baskets can be raised and lowered very easily. The Town Hall is no longer an option as there is a no sports policy since the renovation. The Mt Holly school is happy to have us use it.
- Many people have heard about the dog park and have expressed an interest in helping to develop it.

Little League:

Gary and Leslie Boyle came to today's meeting to discuss turning over Little League to the town.

- Howie asked that all equipment and uniforms be inventoried. Coaches have returned the equipment and it is currently stored at the concession stand.
- Leslie reported that there was approximately \$7,000-\$8,000 in the treasury. Uniforms cost \$2,400 this year. They estimate that \$3,000 per year is needed for replacing some uniforms, hats, shirts and baseballs. Recommended that helmets with face guards be purchased.
- Each year letters go out to area businesses to have their banner placed at the field for the season.
- Concession Stand: In the past, the home team is responsible for staffing this stand.
- Stateline Sports and Keith's are the preferred vendors for Little League
- Gary will provide Howie with an expense sheet of last year's season
- There was talk of Mt Holly having their own team next year. If this happens, Ludlow might not have enough kids to field a team and Ludlow will have to go back to combining grades 4-6.
- Umpires are volunteers with the home team responsible for scheduling.
- Pitching Machine stays outside but the net does come down and is stored in the concession stand.
- Water is supplied from the house of Jean Morrill.
- This season they were a part of the Cal Ripkin League with 3 teams participating. Responses to this league were good as the kids enjoyed the higher level of play and also enjoyed traveling to other towns. In Gary's opinion we should stay in this league.
- Girls Softball was a problem. Great turnout but no volunteers for coaching and no games scheduled. Jim Allen stepped in by default and helped out. Communication was lacking. They only had three practices and two games which were both on opening day in Ludlow and in Cavendish.

- The biggest downfall for the town to take this over is coaching. Coaches will become paid town employees and will have to go through the finger printing process before becoming a coach. They must follow our coaching guidelines. All coaches for all programs get paid right now. All positions will have to be advertised before positions are filled.
- Howie talked about having a program director just for Little League which will also need to be advertised. It was decided that the program director should not be allowed to coach a team.
- Howie would like to work with Mt Holly's baseball program and to have everything in place before the season starts.
- It was suggested that the Mt Holly selectboard put some money in their budget for Little League if the league is run through Mt Holly.
- It was asked where the current Little League funds would go and Howie said that he would put it under the youth activities budget line. This should be a program that supports itself and the Recreation budget would only increase slightly.
- It was decided that the town will take over the Ludlow Little League.

Director's Report:

- The Halloween Parade was cancelled due to the weather. Howie left this decision up to the BRHS Band Director. The dance had a great turn out with 125 kids and lots of volunteer parents and HS students that helped with games and refreshments. The numbers were down for the high school dance and the kids were not happy with the DJ this year. The DJ played mostly "club" music and the kids like "radio" music better. Approximately 75 students attended with most of them being in grades 7-9. It was suggested for next year that the kids write down a playlist a week before the dance. The DJ is willing to work with this. Most of the older kids seem to be going to the Rutland Parade and festivities.
- Soccer ended very successfully. The soccer tournament needed to be moved to Fletcher Fields due to drainage problems at Dorsey Park. A generator was borrowed from Okemo for power at Fletcher Fields. They were able to have the end of season game at Dorsey under the lights.
- The skatepark is still open but the lights are now off as of 11/13/09. Some complaints from neighbors about the lights as the leaves are gone now and not deflecting the light away.

Approval of Minutes:

- Marcia made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. With a second from Pat, the minutes were approved.

Old Business:

- The Dog Park Committee went to the Little League Park and Fletcher Fields and decided that Fletcher Fields would be the better choice for the dog park site. Jean Morrill will bring the proposal to the next meeting of the Fletcher Farm Foundation. This park will be on the Cavendish side across from the canine camp. There will be a fence to separate the large and small dogs. The committee will look at agility equipment after the park is complete.

New Business:

- Youth basketball signups have taken place. There is a large amount of boys playing this season so it was decided to separate into two teams: 1- grade 5 team and 1-grade 6 team. Girls numbers are good but will continue with one team of grades 5 & 6. The 3/4 grade signups yielded 11 boys and 9 girls which will be split into two separate teams.

Executive Session:

- The committee went into executive session at 6:10 and came out of the session at 6:20p.m.

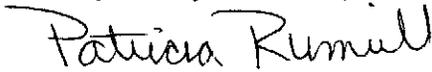
Next Meeting:

- There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will take place on January 7th, 2010 at 5:00p.m.

Adjourned:

- Pat made a motion to adjourn. With a second by Marcia, the meeting adjourned at 6:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Rumrill
Secretary



Sue Pollender

Marcia Dockum



Joe Gurdak