

Preliminary Minutes

**Ludlow Recreation
Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 13th, 2024
5pm
Ludlow Community Center**

Agenda

Present: Nick Miele, Marissa Selleck, Scott Baitz, Joe Gurdak, Zoe Trimboli, Mike Normile, John Denner, Harry Buttz, Shannon Barton and Pat Gray

Call to order 5:08 p.m.

Comments from Citizens

- Shannon Barton wanted to star a committee for events such as snow sculptures, zucchini fest and a carnival.
- Shannon also mentioned the start of the lemonade stand which is funded through the nourishing neighbors grant which is through Shaws. The stand has made over \$500 to start a youth volleyball program.
 - o Jennie donated 3 bags of volleyballs
- Shannon is going to meet with Emily McNamara and Courtney Spaulding to continue to come up with ideas.
- Scott Baitz mentioned that the Chamber used to run these events and Carrol Lighthall would be a good person to connect with.
- Marissa suggested that the rotary is hosting the duck race and that would be a great event to bring the lemonade stand to.
- Joe Gurdak mentioned that George Thomson is the chair and that Shannon should reach out to him.

Approval of Minutes: none

Director's Report

Fall Soccer: We will host the Green Mountain Girls Invitational on September 13th and 14th as well as the Josh Cole Tournament on September 20th and 21st at Dorsey Park. Finally, the youth soccer registration is available and signups are slow.

Cooking with a Local Chef: We hosted our second free cooking class with a local chef on July 22nd. We were able to increase the number to 10 and everyone really enjoys it.

Adult Coed Softball: The Coed softball league has started playoffs and so far, every team has played a game. The playoffs will end on August 26th.

Summer Concert Series: The summer concert series finished up last Sunday and we were able to have every concert outside which was nice.

Old Business:

-Dog Park Update:

- Nick mentioned that the contract for the dog park was sent out on Monday, and the park should be started late summer or early fall.
- Scott Baitz asked if we had a start date.
- Nick mentioned that we do not.

-ARPA Update:

- Nick mentioned that the Playground and Tennis courts were the two projects at Dorsey Park that need attention. The budget at Dorsey Park is 95K and the rec department also has a rec facilities fund of about 51K which could be used to get a bigger portion of these projects completed.
- Mike asked if there was any APRA money left.
- Scott mentioned that the selectboard has allocated most of the funds. The mountain bike park will receive 25K plus an additional 33k to expand and connect the trails from the back 40 to Fletcher Farms.
- Mike suggested that if we take the 95k from ARPA and 30k from capital we can fix the tennis courts and also provide a new playground for the kids. Plus, kids do enjoy using both spaces. We could split it down the middle.
- Joe mentioned that 45k will not work for a playground.
- Nick mentioned that the cost of a playground is not only the equipment, but also design, install and surfacing.
- Mike suggested the first quote from advantage tennis will at least make the courts better.
- Scott suggested possibly using an article like we did for the west hill beach.
- Mike suggested that we could fundraise for phase 2 of the playground.
- Mike was wondering of the role of the rec committee
- Marissa mentioned that we are an advisory committee to the rec director and then the rec director reports to the town manager.
- Scott asked if the Advantage Tennis quote of \$32,700 would be sufficient.
- Mike asked if the courts could be allocated 35k and he also is happy with the quote.
- John noticed on the quote that the crack only has a warrantee of 3 years. This gives the company an out and the repair may not last.
- Mike mentioned that the warrantee is standard and the courts need a maintenance program.
- Scott explained that the repairs on the court have one shot and we may not get another chance to do it.
- Harry mentioned that the courts need a maintenance program and better drainage.
- Scott mentioned that Brendan would have to approve the maintenance program
- Harry mentioned that there should be a net to keep the rocks and woodchips out.
- Mike agreed with Harry and suggested getting the RFP out with dates so the committee can see the cost of the project. Then take the rest of the money and use it for the playground.
- Marissa asked if an article would make sense.

- Scot mentioned that it does not hurt to ask.
- Joe mentioned that we need to keep in mind to budget for the maintenance needs of the projects.
- Marissa mentioned that a tennis court article could make sense.
- John explained that 20 plus people play pickleball at least 2-3 times per week.
- Scott suggested allocating 33k to the tennis courts and then 87k to the playground if we use some of the rec capital fund.
- Mike would like the committee to allocate 33k to the tennis courts.
- Scott agrees and believes we could have a good playground for 80k.
- Nick mentioned that the RFP would have to go out soon.
- Scott recommended that Nick work with Brendan to have a tennis court RFP.
- Joe wanted to see the bids first before we allocate the funds.
- Nick will rework the proposal into an RFP.
- Nick mentioned as far as the playground we would have to downsize it by removing some equipment. He could ask the kids to pick in a survey.
- Zoe suggested that it is not a good idea and adults would help more. Once the playground is open have a party for the kids.

New Business:

-ASP possible partnership:

- Zoe mentioned that recreation department and afterschool program could be a good partnership to increase participation and allow better access for families
 - o ASP is grant funded and can use their resources to help pay coaches, provide transportation to practices or games and even draw more kids to participate.
- Zoe will reach out to Kyle who runs the ASP to get the ball rolling.
- Nick agreed that this could be beneficial for everyone and that trying to start this in the winter would make sense.

-paying youth coaches:

- Joe asked if the recreation department would pay coaches.
- Nick mentioned at the moment we have not paid coaches since 2020, but what would you recommend.
- Joe mentioned that a small stipend would entice parents to coach since they do put in a lot of time. When rec took over k-6 sports they did follow the coaching pay scale.
- Scott was wondering if we pay officials
- Nick explained that we do pay officials.
- Joe suggested paying coaches \$500 would be fair.
- Zoe explained if you partnered with the ASP coaches would get \$20 per hour.
- Joe also expressed if we pay coaches, they should be CPR and AED certified. The LAS used to run courses to help train people.
- Mike agreed that coaches should be certified.

Adjournment

Motion made by Scott Baitz with a second from Joe Gurdak. Meeting was adjourned at 6: pm.

Next Regular Meeting:

- September 10th at 5:00 pm in Community Center

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Miele/ Parks and Rec director

Marissa Selleck/Chair

Joe Gurdak

Frank Provance

Scott Baitz/Vice Chair

Patrick Gray

Zoe Trimboli