

**Ludlow Recreation
Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 9th, 2024
5pm
Ludlow Community Center**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Nick Miele, Marissa Selleck, Scott Baitz, Joe Gurdak, Frank Provance, Sue Pollender, Jean Strong, Dan Ellen and Pat Gray

Call to order 5:08 p.m.

Comments from Citizens

- None

Approval of Minutes: 03/12/2024

- February minutes. Motion made by Scott Baitz, second by Pat Gray. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

- **Ludlow Youth Baseball and Softball:** The registration process has been open and since there is one registration covering Ludlow, Mount Holly and Cavendish we have 106 athletes registered. The participation has been great however the numbers are pushing team sizes.
- **Adult Activates:** The adult programs have been popular throughout the month of March. The indoor soccer program just finished up on Sunday. Adult Volleyball numbers have been consistent and Pickleball has been the most active group using the community center 6 days a week.
- **Annual Easter Egg Hunt:** The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was on April 6th and 30 kids participated. I believe that April Vacation played an impact on the participation. The Ludlow American Legion put \$1 bills in 50 eggs and the kids seemed to enjoy that.

Business:

-Recreation Committee Positions Renewals/New Members

- Zoe Trimboli is a newly appointed member. Frank Provance and Marissa Selleck will submit letters to the selectboard.

-Dog Park Clean Up Update

- Scott Baitz would like to let everyone know that he invited the dog park committee here to discuss normal business as well.

- Scott Baitz suggested that the Dog park have its own budget

- Jean wants to make sure that the money raised for the park stays with the park.

- Dan Ellen explained that the Dog Park funds are separate from the town budget.

- Scott Baitz explained that it makes more sense for the Dog Park to be a part of Buildings and grounds because they handle the day-to-day maintenance. Also, the recreation budget is always the first to get cut.

- Nick Explained that Robert Beardmore did a great job cleaning up the debris. Nick did mention that there would be a need for fill to be added on the field prior to the fence being installed. He will work to get a quote.

- Nick also confirmed that there is about 12k raised and the initial cost of the fence is 36k. He will reach out to Springfield Fence and Perimeter solutions to see if the project could be completed this summer.

- A pathway to fund this project is asking the Select Board to utilize ARPA Funds to subsidize the rest of the cost. The meeting to begin the discussion on the ARPA Funds is April 17th at 6pm.

- The dog park committee agreed that this would be the best path for the park moving forward.

- Dan would like updates to share with his company because they have supported the park in a big way.

- Marissa also suggested a thank you to Beardmore excavating for the park clean up.

-Events Update: Green Up Day; Little League/Opening Day

- Green Up Day is scheduled for May 4th and Nick is working to get more businesses involved such as the Lake Rescue association and Black River Action Team.

- Frank also mentioned that Diamond Realty is participating in the Guinness Book of World Records attempt.

- Nick is planning for Opening Day on April 27th at Dorsey Park. The parade will start at either the school or Sams Steakhouse. Chief Billings will make the call on that.

- Marissa asked if Pullinen field would be used.

- Nick mentioned that just for this season it will be used for practice. He has looked into the lights and spoke to Chief Kolenda about replacing all the bulbs. He is concerned about getting the truck up there.

- Joe mentioned that a man lift was used in the past.

- Nick mentioned that he would look into it. We have time since the Legion starts in mid-June.

-Mountain Biking

- Frank asked if everyone had a chance to review the LAST letter he sent out. LAST is primarily looking for funding to expand the trails.

- Scott Baitz asked if they had a number in mind.

- Nick mentioned he spoke with Charlie Rimer and he mentioned they had a little less than 10k in fundraising. A possible match from the town would be a good use of the ARPA Funds for the Recreation Department.

- Marissa asked if the trails were ready to go.

- Frank mentioned that the trails need to dry out and then there will be a work day.

-Community Center

- Nick mentioned that the community center has been extremely busy with pickleball and other activities. He would like to mention that the weight room is getting a lot of use and would like the committee to entertain the idea of moving the weight room into the red room.

- Scott Baitz liked the idea and it could open up the opportunity to allow members access to the weight room at any time.

- Frank asked what the Red Room's primary uses are.

- Nick explained that it is used for the Magris Talc class, our haunted house entrance and some birthday parties. If we moved the weight room to the red room this would allow for more cardio equipment and space the room out.

- Nick also suggested a way to fund this is to put the memberships fees back into the weight room to keep improving it.

- Pat mentioned his initial idea was to have the red room as a cardio room and the existing weight room as a strength room.

- Nick will look into both options and present it at the next meeting.

-Projects & Funding

-Scott Baitz asked what projects Nick was looking into.

- Nick mentioned the dog park, mountain bike park and transitioning the Little League Field into a flood resistant park.

-Scott asked what the cost of those projects would be.

- Nick mentioned the total cost of the dog park is around 40k with the addition of topsoil and not including what has been raised, the mountain bike track would be around 10K, and transition the Little League field into a new park would be about 200K.

- Scott likes the idea of a new park, but would need more direction and planning. The Dog park and mountain bike park are both possible projects to get completed.

- Nick mentioned that the Little League field project would have to have a project management company host meetings and help plan the park out. This project would include 4 pickleball courts, walking path, outdoor fitness area, and a basketball court. The project would most likely occur over multiple years. Someone did ask about the possibility of fixing the tennis courts, but they run the cost of at least 65K.

-Nick would prefer to develop a park at the Little League field because more community members would take advantage of it.

Next Meeting: 05/14/2024

Adjournment

Motion made by Scott Baitz with a second from Pat Gray. Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Next Regular Meeting:

- May 14th at 5:00 pm in Community Center

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Miele/ Parks and Rec director

Marissa Selleck/Chair

Scott Baitz/Vice Chair

Joe Gurdak

Patrick Gray

Frank Provance