

**Ludlow Recreation
Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 9th, 2023
5pm
Ludlow Community Center
Preliminary Minutes**

Present: Nick Miele, Marissa Selleck, Scott Baitz, and Joe Gurdak

Call to order 5:07 p.m.

Comments from Citizens:

- none

Approval of Minutes: 11/14/2023 and 10/10/23

- November minutes. Motion made by Scott Baitz second by Pat Gray. Motion passed unanimously.
- December minutes. Motion made by Scott Baitz second by Pat Gray. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

- **Youth Basketball:** practices have been underway since the beginning of December and each of our older teams have practiced as well as had one game.

- **Community Center:** There definitely is a huge influx of participants utilizing the fitness room, playing pickle ball, or even participating during the open gym period. We were able to retape the pickleball courts to allow for the gym to be used by basketball and pickleball at the same time. Black River Good Neighbors continues to provide a free community meal on the first and third Thursday of each month in the Community Center Cafeteria. The community meals continue to serve anywhere between 80 to 100 community members.

- **Holiday Lights:** The holiday lighting display increased when compared to last year. We were able to add more lights on the tank as well as on the walkway arches, and adding six new songs including *The Avengers*, *I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas* and *Blinding lights*. This year everyone was impressed with the light show.

Old Business:

-Dog Park

- Nick Reached out to Beardmore excavating to confirm Fletcher Fields to be cleaned up in the spring.

The process goes as follows: At the end of February, Nick will reach back out to confirm clean up date. Nick will have Patty Potter drop a metal dumpster for the fencing to be disposed of. Nick will follow up with Brendan regarding where to dispose of tree debris.

-VOREC Grant

- Due to the heavy snow, we will push this to the next meeting.

-Community Center Hours Update

- Nick Spoke with Brendan about volunteers opening the community center on the weekend and that should not be a problem. A few volunteers in mind are John Martel, Sarah Tate and Pat Gray.

- A potential renter looked to start an ice cream business out of the Ludlow Community Center Kitchen. Nick is working with Brendan to make sure we limit the town's liability.

-The kitchen space is utilized the first and third Thursday of each month for Black River Good Neighbors community Meal.

-Winter Activities

- Paula Vanguilder was working on a hot chocolate winter event in February.

New Business

-Fundraising

- Ludlow will be hosting a 5/6 basketball tournament during President's week and is a great opportunity to run concessions.

- Nick reached out to the Vermont Community Foundation regarding the recreation facilities. Our notes have been passed out to their donors and also recommended two grants that we should look into.

- Dorsey Park Playground Expansion: Potential Donation/Action

-Nick explained that Troy Caruso reached out to ask about a possible playground expansion at Dorsey Park. Nick was unsure if the donation was coming directly from Troy or if it was from a donor that reached out to him. Nick wanted some input from the recreation committee.

- Marissa also explained that Troy works with an organization A.C.T. Nick actually spoke with them today to explain the playground.

- Scott Baitz mentioned that the playground conversation was discussed during the previous select board meeting. Advised that we need to make sure we let the process play out.

- Pat Gray wants the committee to make sure that we understand the motive of the donation.

- Scott Baitz also advised that we need to understand where the money is coming from. The town is not in a position to upgrade the playground. The town has spent over 2 million dollars and will get 75% reimbursement from FEMA; however, this process takes a long time.

- Nick wanted to make sure that everyone understands the process. The recreation committee would give a recommendation to the Select Board and then the board would have the final say.

- Pat Gray expressed concerns about flooding in the future and make sure that future park projects take this into account.

- Joe Gurdak continued to echo the same concerns as the rest of the committee. Also wants the group to wait to get organized before we move forward on the project.

-Nick also mentioned that there was some confusion on what the project would look like as far as expansion, replacement or a new playground. He will work to get new numbers for everyone.

- Pat Gray also wanted to make sure we considered the timeframe of this donation.

-Scott Baitz wants us to thank Troy for what he has done for the community.

-Paying coaches:

-Scott Baitz asked if we still pay rec coaches.

- Nick mentioned that since covid we have decided not to.

- Scott asked if we have trouble getting coaches.
- Nick mentioned that it depends on the sport, but was open to paying coaches because it is a big-time commitment.

Adjournment

Motion made by Joe Gurdak with a second from Pat Gray. Meeting was adjourned at 5:43 pm.

Next Regular Meeting:

- February 13th at 5:00 in Community Center

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Miele/ Parks and Rec director

Marissa Selleck/Chair

Scott Baitz/Vice Chair

Joe Gurdak

Patrick Gray

Frank Provance