

DRAFT
Ludlow Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Ludlow Community Center – Recreation Office

Thursday, July 8, 2014

5:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 5:10 pm. Members present: Sue Pollender, Patty Rumrill, Leslie Boyle, Pam O'Neil and Recreation Director, Howard Paul.

Comments from Citizens:

- The level 1 & 2 swimming lesson group is very disorganized and chaotic. A parent approached Sue saying that something needed to be done. The woman said she had paid \$90 and is not getting her money worth. It seemed as though more students showed up for the level 1 & 2 than was expected. There were far fewer children in level 3 & 4 classes. Two instructors will be there for the rest of the classes.
- A number of people were upset with the fireworks and comments were “it took me longer to get here on the bus then to watch the fireworks.” No one from Streetscapes was there to field questions and concerned. . When Howie shared the concerns, Patty Greenwood from Streetscapes was surprised and will be contacting Atlas looking for either money back or credit toward next year. Recreation is not involved with the planning, other than helping with buses

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of minutes from June 10, 2014 Meeting: Motion by Leslie seconded by Patty. Unanimously passed.

Director's Report:

- Co-ed softball: There are 4 teams playing one night a week: Tuesdays. Thursday is a make up day. Teams forfeited and dropped out. Entry fee was dropped to \$300 because of the decrease in games being played.
- Summer soccer has been going strong and seems to be a great league. However, there concern about whether we should continue to be in it. League fees are high at \$700 per team, in addition to \$70 per game for referees for a total \$1400 for each team and a total of \$2800. Questions being raised about why everyone doesn't have to pay as they do for other programs. The board is concerned that the soccer program still does not bring in enough money to cover itself, as other programs do. The recommendation is that we don't join league again or set fees so that it is in line with our other recreation programs.

- For the first time in five years, Ludlow has its own Babe Ruth baseball program. There are 16 children on the roster. They practice at least one day a week, with three games a week. Players range in age from 13 to 16. There is a good mix of young and older players. Playing time is not equal and not guaranteed.
- Summer Camp numbers are down, averaging about 40 kids a day when last year it was 70. The change may be due to the increase in cost or the changes to Quest. Quest now accepts 8th and 9th graders. Last year many of those same aged children attended summer camp. One of the biggest changes to Summer Camp is that on Tuesday and Thursdays the campers go to Plymouth State Park for swimming activities. So far the weather has been cooperative and campers seem to be really enjoying it.
- Little League ended in June. None of our teams won a championship, but they learned a lot and had fun. Due to the many rain cancellations the schedule needed to be adjusted on a regular basis.
- The Summer Concert Series started with James MEE. Concerts are held at the Gazebo at 7 pm unless rain and then they will be held in the community center.

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Old Business:

- A Refrigerator and grill will be purchased at fireman's auction for Little League next year. The playground still needs to have the rubber mulch chips. Since it is considered a public facility, it will be done at the same time as Dorsey Park.

New Business:

- The board will look at better ways to hold people accountable for the collection of fees for participation in our programs. Howie will draft a proposal designed to have fees support programs offered by Ludlow recreation. The recreation committee also recommends that we not run a program that takes athletes away from a sports team that is in season at the high school or middle school level.
- New open meeting law states that the agenda must be posted in three places: Post office, outside Berkshire (Community Board) and the town hall, 72 hours prior to meeting and minutes must be posted within 5 business days of the meeting.

- Howie spoke with Frank Heald about West Hill. He agrees that we hold a public forum in the fall to discuss how to best use the facility. The committee will set a date at the August meeting.

Next meeting Date:

August 12, 2012 at 5 pm at the Community Center.

Motion to adjourn by Patty, seconded by Pam. Unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Susan Pollender

Joseph Gurdak

Patricia Rumrill

Leslie Boyle

Pamela O'Neil

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela O'Neil, Secretary