East Haddam Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2020

Attending: M. Davis; C. Grillo; P. Laffan; M. Larson, T. Goodie, T. Piscotti
Absent: M. Roberts; F. Tremblay; D. Carbo;
Guests: L. Conroy

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the August 24, 2020 Special Meeting.

MOTION MADE BY MR. GRILLO, SECONDED BY MR. LAFFAN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 24, 2020 MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Committee Reports

- **Music on the River (MOR)** - Ms. Conroy reported that there is nothing new to report on this event.

- **Disc Golf** – Mr. Laffan reported that the disk golf program is going well. Ms. Conroy advised that the Rec Department is going to keep the Port-O-Potty at the course through the winter. She stated that a resident, whose property is adjacent to the course, had sent her a note expressing her concern that dogs are off-leash at the Nicols Field and on the disk golf course. Ms. Conroy reported that additional "No Dogs Permitted" signs have been installed in several areas.

Director's Report

a. Fall Programs Review – Ms. Conroy reported that the fall programs are running smoothy and reviewed the registration status of several programs. She stated that, since the Soccer Club had cancelled its season, she had expanded the Rec soccer program run by UK International to include participants up to the 8th grade level. Ms. Conroy noted that, due to the high level of interest expressed by Colchester residents, she expanded the program further by adding another coach and four additional sessions. She advised that Shagbark had donated t-shirts for the players.

   Ms. Conroy reported that she had established a learning lab in the Rec activity room for children of the East Haddam Board of Education staff that have remote-learning schedules which cannot be supervised by their parents. She stated that the lab is open from 6:30 a.m. (7:00am) thru 4:00 p.m. and registrations are limited. She noted that, although the department does not make any profit from the program, the service has been well-received by the teachers and school staff.

b. Winter Programs Preview – Ms. Conroy reported the following:

   - She is looking into establishing a midget/youth football league in the gym.

- She received approval to bring Pickle Ball back into the gym. She will start the program with two sessions with a maximum of 16 registrations per session. She stated that no drop-ins will be allowed and reviewed the health safety protocols in place.

- Boot camp will also move into gym but Gentle Yoga and guitar lessons will continue to be virtual.

- Project Safe Halloween will be at the Middle School with a drive-by format and Mr. Grillo has volunteered to be on-site to oversee the activities. Ms. Conroy advised that the Rec Commission will donate $150 to the event to purchase candy.

- The Skyhawks will run weekday evening basketball clinics in the gym for participants in grades 1 thru 8. The gym can accommodate up to two groups per session and the program will follow CAIC guidelines; there will be one coach per 10 kids.

- She has also contracted with the Skyhawks to run an HoopsterTots program for children ages 3-5 years.

- CPR classes will be scheduled.

Ms. Conroy responded to several questions about the programs from the Commissioners and there was a general discussion regarding scheduling guided nature hikes on the Town's Open Space trails.

c. Annual Report Preview – Ms. Conroy called Commissioners' attention to the draft FY2019-2020 Recreation Commission Annual Report. She reviewed statistics and noted that the reduction in programs, registrations, and income is primarily due to COVID-19 impact.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Family Night on Moodus Green – Ms. Conroy stated that, at this time, she does not have a plan for this annual event.
b. Winter programming – This agenda item was discussed under the Director's Report and is reported on in the above minutes.

In response to statement by Mr. Davis, Ms. Conroy confirmed that Board of Selectmen had approved the appointment of Travis Goode and Fernand Tremblay to the Recreation Commission.

Adjournment

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. LAFFAN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary