

Town of Harpswell
Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2022, 7:00pm

Members in Attendance: David Brooks, Tom Carr, Don Miskill, Jeanie Rubio, Rick Rumba; plus new members Kevin Hunt, Tom Mahoney and Gabe Coulon

Also in Attendance: Gina Perow, Recreation Director; Kayla Mathews, Programs Coordinator; and Jane Covey, Selectman

A quorum of Committee Members was present when the meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

1. Welcome New Members:

Gina introduced our new Committee members - Kevin Hunt, Tom Mahoney and Gabe Coulon to the group. Kevin, Tom and Gabe each have a wealth of experience and interest in youth sports and recreation activities, which will give the Committee a better focus in these areas.

2. Introductions:

Since we have three new members, everyone present provided a brief introduction to the other members highlighting their backgrounds and areas of interest.

3. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

After a brief discussion, *a motion was made and seconded to accept the DRAFT May 16, 2022 meeting minutes as written. The minutes were accepted and approved as written (5 Yea, 0 Nay, 3 Abstain).* The approved FINAL May 16, 2022 Committee meeting minutes will be forwarded to the Committee.

4. Mission Statement and Goals for the Department and Committee:

Gina and Kayla noted that since the Department has recently been reorganized, they have developed a new Mission Statement for the Department and Committee to include Community Services. The new Mission was submitted to the Board of Selectmen and approved at their meeting on May 26, 2022. The new Mission Statement was handed out and discussed. No changes were recommended by the Committee. **(The Mission Statement is attached).** Gina and Kayla are working on drafting a list of Goals for the Department and Committee.

5. Update on Community Services/Department Transitions:

Gina reported that integration of Community Services (General Assistance, Heating Assistance and Harpswell Aging at Home) is going smoothly. Recently Gina has been fielding an unusually large number of requests for General Assistance. The Heating Assistance application process does not begin until October, but calls have already been coming in. Gina also reported when she receives calls for Harpswell Aging at Home (HAH) assistance, she passes those requests along to the appropriate HAH member for follow up.

6. Spring/Fall Programs:

a. Youth:

Summer - Kayla reported that the Recreation Department sponsored Kayaking for Kids through H2Outfitters again this past summer. The program accepts 10-12 kids per session, and was held for half-day sessions during one week in July and one week in August. A total of 5 participants registered for the program through the Department.

Fall – Kayla reported that the department is again sponsoring Pee Wee Soccer (3-5 year-olds) and Harpswell Harriers XC (grades K-6). Pee Wee Soccer is already full (24 participants) and Harpswell Harriers currently has 29 kids registered.

b. Community:

Summer –

Bandstand Concerts: Gina reported that the Bandstand Concert series was very well attended this year and received the largest amount of donations through the “Johnny Cash Box” ever. The highest attendance was for the August 25 concert featuring Primo Cubano, and included the Taco the Town

Food truck. Well over 500 people attended, and the food truck sold out in 1.5 hours. Due to the food truck success, the Bandstand Committee will be considering getting food trucks to come for more concerts next year.

Harpswell Hiking Challenge: The Harpswell Hiking Challenge was also very well attended this year. We gave out all of our tee-shirts (50), most of our tumblers, and some tote bags and hats. Overall it was very successful after having a few years off due to Covid.

Discount Summer Tickets: The Department had 50 discounted Funtown/Splashtown and 50 discounted Aquaboggin tickets at the office to sell. The office sold out of the Funtown/Splashtown tickets in early August, but only sold 15 Aquaboggin tickets. The remaining 35 were returned.

Fall–

Craft &Carve Event: The Department will be sponsoring a Craft and Carve Event at Trufant Summerton field on October 22, 2022. This will be the second year for this event that is a family event open to everyone. This year, 60 pumpkins will be available to carve - first come/first served, and people are encouraged to bring their own pumpkins to carve. There will be give-aways from community partners and activity tables sponsored by HNPEA, HHLT, MMCA and more. There will also be light refreshments and drinks available, a photo booth station and hopefully an inflatable obstacle course.

c. Adult:

Fall and Winter–

Harpswell Aging at Home: The Department is partnering with HAH to start a new 8-week “Friends Together” pilot program that meets Thursdays in the Selectmen’s room at the Town Office building. The program is designed to provide a fun and educational social experience for older adults and seniors in Harpswell. It begins September 22 and continues through November 10. Each week’s gathering will include an exercise session (Tai Chi or Yoga), a hands-on activity, and a health and wellness information session. One field trip is planned on 10/20 to the People Plus Senior Expo in Brunswick.

Merrymeeting Adult Education: MAE is doing a series of free talks with artists. They will be filming the talks and Gina is arranging to have them potentially broadcast on HTV14. The first talk will be with Nathaniel Wheelwright on Thursday September 22 from 6 to 8pm.

Curtis Memorial Library: Their usual person who runs the genealogy program is currently out on sabbatical and we will have to wait until late Fall to set up a schedule for this program.

Harpswell Heritage Land Trust: is providing adult learning talks. The current schedule is: The Mystery of Maine Wildlife (September 26 from 7 to 8pm at Curtis Memorial Library); Citizen Science: Rockweed Survey (October 2 from 8am-12noon, at Potts Point Preserve).

Future–

Merrymeeting Adult Education: Jose at Merrymeeting Adult Education has reached out to his instructors to see who might be interested in coming to Harpswell to host programs. Two instructors expressed interest. Maggie Morgan is interested in teaching Art Therapy for Seniors, and Heather is interested in teaching a mindfulness course. Gina will be meeting with each of them later this week to get discuss further.

7. Process for New Programs to be Instituted:

(This agenda item was tabled until our next meeting due to time constraints).

8. Trail Maintenance and Upkeep:

Committee members noted that there are maintenance items that need to be addressed on a regular basis on the Cliff Trail, Devils Back East and Devils Back West. These items include things like trail clean up, weedwacking, etc. It was suggested that we schedule work days to complete these items every 7-8 weeks. Tom Carr agreed to put a schedule together and distribute it to members.

9. Trufant Summerton Garage: Gina and Kayla are looking to get shelving built and installed at The Garage at Trufant Summerton Field for storing athletic gear. Kevin agreed to put together a materials list and organize volunteers to get this job done.

10. 2023 Budget: Gina mentioned that the Town Departments are beginning to work on drawing up their budgets for next year. She asked for suggestions new programs, and budget items we may want to

consider for 2023 and beyond. Discussion included adding some new adult programming such as adult kickball, softball, pickleball, basketball, and corn hole in the future. Another suggestion was having a town-wide scavenger hunt. Gina noted these suggestions and asked members to send any other ideas to her and/or Kayla.

- 11. Meeting Frequency, Day/Time:** Gina mentioned that given all of the Department changes and new programming, etc., the Committee may want to consider changing the frequency of our meetings as well as the day and time of the meetings. Currently we are scheduled to meet in September, November, April and May on the second Monday of the month. After some discussion, it was agreed that we would meet again in both October and November this year, but at 7:00pm on the SECOND Monday of the month. Since the second Monday in October is a holiday, we will postpone that meeting until October 17. Meetings beyond that will be scheduled at a later time, tentatively in February March April and May.
- 12. Other:** Don mentioned that there is a Cross Country meet schedule for Wednesday September 22 at Mitchell Field. We need volunteers to help with Parking on the 22nd, as well as clear and mow the trails in the woods prior to the meet. Tom Carr and Tom Mahoney said they would assist with parking on the 22, and Rick agreed to clear and mow the trails prior to the meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Next Meetings: October 17, 2022 @ 7:00pm and November 14, 2022 @ 7:00pm at the Town Office

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rumba, Secretary

Attachment 1 – Mission Statement

Recreation Committee Mission Statement

Mission for the Department and Committee

The mission of the Recreation Department and Committee is provide leisure, arts and sports programs, learning opportunities, facilities and services that enhance the quality of life for all residents of Harpswell.

The Community Services division of the Department shall be a resource to inform Harpswell people about available programs and services that help people of all ages thrive in the community. The Department shall develop, maintain and strengthen relationships with entities that provide such services in Harpswell and shall be responsible for administering the Town's assistance programs.

Mission for the Programs

To enhance the quality of life for all residents of Harpswell, by offering programs and learning opportunities that appeal to a diverse population and encourage community spirit and cohesiveness.

By:

- Stimulating community involvement
- Promoting physical health and well being for Harpswell residents
- Providing alternatives to loneliness and isolation
- Encouraging fun and reducing stress

Liaison: Recreation Director

Submitted: 5/14/2009

Updated by Board of Selectmen 5/26/2022