

Town of Harpswell
Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2019, 7:00pm

Committee Members in Attendance: David Brooks, Tom Carr, Rick Rumba

Also in Attendance: Gina Perow, Recreation Director

A quorum of Committee Members was not present for the meeting. As a result, no official business could be voted on.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes for the last meeting (held on November 5, 2018) could not be approved due to lack of a quorum. This will be taken up again at the next meeting (May 6, 2019).

Old Business:

- **Adult Program Updates:**

- Adult Ti Chi classes were held in the Selectmen's meeting room this past winter. 12 people completed the program.
- 13 people attended the Recreation Department-sponsored Amtrak trip from Brunswick to the Maine Flower Show in Portland on March 28.
- Adult Yoga, Bridge, and Scrap Crafts were also all well attended.
- Gina is also looking for ideas for any new adult programs.

- **Youth Program Updates:**

- Karate Kapow was held Wednesday mornings at the Harpswell Community School. 19 students attended.
- Wild to Mild Yoga was also held Wednesday mornings at the Harpswell Community School.
- Basketball: This winter the Recreation Department sponsored 4 basketball teams for grades 3-6. Programs were also held for younger students.
- T-ball has 18 students signed up.
- Wild to Mild Yoga as well as Learn to Play Tennis & Pickleball are both currently scheduled this spring at the Harpswell Community School on Wednesday mornings. The Tennis & Pickleball program is being jointly sponsored with HNPEA.
- Camp Harpswell will once again be offered this summer, but unfortunately an alternate location must be identified as the Community School will be undergoing construction for a new roof as soon as school ends for the summer.
- The Summer Swim program is cancelled this summer due to HVAC work that will close the Bowdoin pool during the summer months.
- Both Youth Kayaking (offered by H2Outfitters) and Youth Sailing (offered by Abbott Fletcher Sailing School) will also be offered again this summer. In addition, Youth Baseball will be beginning a few weeks.

New Business:

- **New Program Assistant:** The new Recreation Program Assistant position was approved at the March Town Meeting. Gina prepared and posted a job description for the new position on the Town website. Thusfar there has only been one applicant. Gina plans to keep the position open for a bit longer in order to attract a few more applicants.
- **Trails Day:** Trails Day will be held this year on June 1 & 2. HHLT would like to celebrate the opening of the new Little Ponds Preserve on Bethel Point on that day, and would also like to hold an outdoor fun activity at the main Curtis Farm trail parking access. As a result, we will plan to include these two trails on this year's Trails Day. The meeting attendees discussed the trail options for this year, and decided on the following list of trails for this year's Trails Day: Curtis Farm Trail, Cliff Trail, Devil's Back East, Devil's Back West, Little Ponds Preserve, Mitchell Field, Widgeon Cove Trail and Houghton Graves Park. Gina also mentioned that we are still looking for Trails Day sponsors (would like to have 10 sponsors in total). Sponsorships require a \$150 donation, and sponsors will have their names listed on the backs of the 2019 Trails Day Tee-shirts.
- **Trail Work:** There was some discussion of the trail work that has recently been completed, work that needs to be completed, and methods to better keep track of trail improvement needs. Tom reported that over the winter he has removed most of the tree hazards on the Cliff Trail. Tom also photographed all of the signs on the Cliff Trail so that Gina can record and catalog them. There was also discussion of the fact that much of the Cliff Trail adjacent to Strawberry Creek is very muddy and in poor condition. Committee members discussed various options for making improvements to this portion of the trail. Attendees also discussed arranging a day in the near future to conduct sweeps of the Cliff Trail and Devil's Back Trails to update the list of work that should be completed prior to Trails Day. Finally, there was discussion of options to better keep track of trail improvement/maintenance needs. At the last meeting, there was a brief discussion of using the MyRec on-line software as a tool where the Work List could be posted and updates could be made by Recreation Committee members as work is completed and new items are identified. Gina agreed to look into this again.
Action Items - 1) Tom will send an email to the Committee members with several dates on which we can schedule a walkthrough sweep of the Cliff and Devil's Back trails to identify any pressing issues that need to be addressed prior to Trails Day. 2) Gina will look into options for using the MyRec on-line software to post the Rec Committee Work List, and allow Committee members to make updates.
- **Recreation Awards:** Gina mentioned that in the past, the Committee has recognized Harpswell residents who have made significant contributions to Town recreation programs; and asked if the Committee should make awards to two residents again this year. Stephanie Alexander was nominated for an award for her work operating the concession stand at Trufant Summerton Athletic Field for many years; and Rick Meisenbach was nominated for his service on the Recreation Committee.
- **Get Active Southern Midcoast Maine:** Gina reported that *Get Active Southern Midcoast Maine* publishes winter and summer maps of free trails and beaches in southern midcoast Maine (Bath, Brunswick, Georgetown, Harpswell, Phippsburg, Topsham, West Bath, Westport Island and

Woolwich). They recently sent her the new summer map to review and edit. The maps are available on line at: <https://midcoasttrailchallenge.org/trails/>. Printed copies will be mailed to Gina for distribution in town.

- **Other:** Tony Barrett had asked Gina to mention that the Maine Chapter of the American Lung Association has re-routed their annual 3-day Trek Across Main bicycle event this year, and bikers will be traveling through Harpswell on Friday morning June 14 (Rt 24 - Mountain Rd - Rt 123). He mentioned that they “need volunteers”. However Gina had no other information on the event or what volunteers are needed for, so this business item was tabled until the May meeting when Tony can explain.

Next Meeting: May 6, 2019 @ 7:00pm at the Town Office

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rumba, Secretary