

Feb 1, 2022

Members Present: Kate Anderson, Sheri Lynn, Mark Fausel, Stefani Hartsfield, Kate Kreider

Called to order 7:05 pm.

Public comment/non-agenda items:

Ravi shared out about the bicycle/pedestrian plan process and asked committee members and others in the community to add their input to the WikiMap.

Sheri- Chrissy shared out that someone from the Senior Center would like to be a community advisor (non-voting member.) Ravi noted that he could also join as a voting, full member if interested and Sheri will follow up.

Sheri- Bob from the Williston Rec Committee is unable to join us tonight as planned due to a family emergency. He will plan to come to the March meeting.

Ravi- Shared that he will be joining the South Burlington Rec Committee and can share about it in the future after some time spent as part of it.

Kate A- Noted that first Tues in March is Town Meeting Day and so we may want to move our Committee meeting that month.

Sheri- Wanted to confirm that the priorities we selected as a full committee from the Outreach category last time, and to see if the committee is interested in making an Outreach Plan. Is a subcommittee appropriate here? No members of committee remembered the subcommittee so planned to table this for now.

Mark made a motion to approve last meeting's minutes; Kate A seconded. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Fourth of July Updates

Stefani- Most recent update from Linda Parent is that because of pandemic restrictions, parade and activities in park would be canceled for this year. Only able to find one vendor (ice cream truck). Likely will still be a community band, and there will still be fireworks. Just sharing out the decision made. Stefani was not invited by accident so not all 4th of July committee members were invited.

Sheri- Follow-up action? In future projects, volunteer recruitment could be a role for our committee. However, this year it seems it would not be expected. Should we respond to Linda and let her know we can support for 2023?

Kate A- Do we want to have a plan in place if community members want to organize something separate from the 4th of July committee activities (band and fireworks)? We may want to make a decision if we would support it at all or not become involved in 2022.

Mark- Just confirming the only activities scheduled are fireworks and band. No parade and no other activities? I wonder if there may be a grassroots movement within the community to try and have activities for families and community members. May see something at the Green materialize.

Stefani- Typically messaging has been through the Facebook page. We may want to use that to help create a space for something to be organized, outside of the 4th of July committee. The parade can be a lot of work, but it also brings community together and perhaps someone will be interested.

Kate K- I am surprised to hear it has been canceled already. There will likely be disappointment from community members. Will the committee feel upset if activities form outside of their work?

Stefani- From a rec committee perspective, should we respond to Linda and simply thank her for the info? Maybe we can ask if it's appropriate to make this public information and allow community members to organize on their own. Would this factor into liability and the town's insurance?

Ravi- It is a non-town-official event but has been part of the town for so long so will need to further look into how the liability might work.

Sheri- Certainly not opposed to supporting as possible, and also don't want it to appear we "take over" as a committee so most appropriate for Stefani to see if the 4th of July feels comfortable with community members stepping forward and volunteering. Could this be similar to the Halloween on the Green event and the Volunteers Green usage form?

Lisa Miller (from planning commission)- PetraCliffs does not have the working hydraulic climbing wall but they could do facilitated activity especially for kids, and it's no cost.

Sheri- Act 78- New law allowing towns to have a fully remote meeting until January 15, 2023. What is the Rec committee's preference?

Ravi- Because of current pandemic caseloads, many committees and the Selectboard have been working to go fully virtual now that there is no requirement for a physical location.

Mark and Stefani are in favor of fully virtual for ease of access/document viewing. Kate K is comfortable either way, Kate A will abstain due to stepping down soon. Sheri noted that Harland would likely not be comfortable/able to access meetings with a solely virtual option.

Ravi- Noted that it does not need to be firm or long-term decision and he is likely to be present at the town center when needed to facilitate in person.

Stefani- In the past, Harland would come and sit on Stefani's porch for virtual meetings. This could work well for him to be able to participate during comfortable weather.

Sheri- It can be valuable to have physical location so everyone can have equal access. Maybe for March we will see if we can have a physical location for Harland to attend and then we will consider going virtual in April (phase in approach.)

Workplan- Sheri facilitating selection of 2-3 priorities for next year in the Volunteers Green category.

Ravi- Municipal Park Ordinance is ready for use now; instead of Rec Committee, a town official designated by Town manager would be the one to sign off on forms.

Stefani- Could park use form be available online, and is that Rec work or does it belong to the town clerks' office for approval? Or could one of us take on the task of talking to Katie Mather with the website about where the form may be built in to the website update?

Sheri- Rec committee will likely not be addressed for another 6 months in website work.

Sheri and Stefani- Advocate for prioritizing the 12-month workplan as a way of focusing our work. Could also fit into recruiting volunteers to help with this.

Kate K- Ensuring that space is maintained and accessible for residents is also valuable and especially if we receive VOREC grant the replacement of aging structures is an important priority for our committee.

Sheri- Would Community Wellbeing Initiative fit in here or elsewhere?

Stefani- Would not fit into Volunteers Green, may tie in to some of the events occurring there but probably more focused in the Outreach area. Initiative is about resiliency and creating more recreational opportunities, and some perceived gaps in people's knowledge/ability to find the existing activities and options.

Sheri- Returning to Outreach goals and priorities, should we consider adding Community Wellbeing Initiative into that area? Or do we think once the new website is live then we could link it there and the resources?

Stefani- Requested a copy of the brochure created by the intern in spring 2021.

Ravi- Voting open on Tues March 1 during the day but actual Town Meeting is virtual info sessions 2/1 and 2/28, but no event on March 1 in the evening.

Committee agreed we can still have the March 1 meeting at 7 pm as planned.

Future note-taking; decided that rotating would be helpful so all could participate in discussions while taking turns taking minutes each month.

Stefani motioned to adjourn at 8:22 pm; Mark seconded. All approved and adjourned.