

Richmond Recreation Committee

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR December 17, 2020

Members Present: Chrissy Keating, Martha Nye, Kirsten Santor, Kate Anderson, Jack Linn, Rich Roberge

Members Absent: Ashley Hanlon, Harland Stockwell, Naomi Hahr, Mark Fausel, Stefani Hartsfield

Others Present: Justin Graham (RiseVT)

Kirsten Santor opened the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Public comment:

Martha would like Rich to take over her position on the committee in the near future. She would like to stay on the committee, but in a non-voting position.

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting:

Motion by Jack to approve the December 1st meeting minutes, seconded by Martha.

Voting: unanimous.

Motion carried.

Internship update:

- Cathy approved the internship and the Action Now workgroup is ready to distribute the "job description" to local universities. Justin and Kirsten have contacts at UVM. Justin will also reach out to his contact at Castleton. We are not limited to these universities. We can advertise the internship more broadly if needed.
- The intern will focus on the Recreation page of the Town website. The page will consist of a brochure that can be edited as needed. The intern may assist the town with website update if needed.
- The intern will receive school credit.

Motion by Martha to approve internship description and dissemination, seconded by Jack.

Voting: unanimous.

Motion carried.

2021 Meeting schedule:

- The Committee discussed the meeting schedule and decided to meet once a month starting in 2021.
- Meeting schedule in 2021: First Tuesday of every month, from 7-8pm.
- Member expectations and meeting standards need to be adopted.

Motion by Chrissy to endorse the new meeting schedule, seconded by Jack.

Voting: unanimous

Motion carried

Town Report:

The Committee has been asked to prepare an article for the Town Report. We will report on our current activity, focus, oversight, and future work.

Kirsten has offered to write a draft and submit it to Committee members for feedback.

Committee updates:

Research:

- Jack looked at town reports for historical budget information for the Recreation Committee. His research included information from 1976 to 1993.
- The ballfields, bathrooms, band shell, and playground equipment was largely done with volunteer labor, farm equipment, and assistance from the Town Road Crew.
- The Recreation Committee oversaw the July 4th parade, swim program at Lake Iroquois, a concert series, softball teams, and Burlington International Games.
- The town park consists of 12 acres
 - The Road Crew mows 1x/week
 - It takes 2 people 20 hours/week through October
 - Trash is picked up 2x/week
 - Browns Court: 2 hours/week, 2 people mowing
 - 1x/year: maintenance checks on equipment, fields, trees, and road
- The Road Commissioner would like to see the Recreation Committee be administrators of the park, recreation leagues, and manage all future activities and needs.

Action Now Committee:

Park Ordinance: Tabled until January meeting

Grant funds:

- Justin has Rise VT Amplify grant funds to purchase recreation gear for the Town.
- He proposed purchasing snowshoes that can be “checked out” at the library. The library is willing to manage the snowshoes, but would like a liability waiver to be signed by individuals who check them out.
- Essex and Milton have successful library snowshoe lending programs.
- The funds can purchase 10 pairs of snowshoes, including 4 for youth.
- The committee discussed the pros and cons of using the funds for purchasing the snowshoes.

Chrissy made a motion to approve the request of up to \$1500 to support the library snowshoe lending program, Kirsten seconded. Martha and Kate voted yes. Jack abstained.

Motion carried.

Justin presented another grant opportunity to the Committee. It is called the Better Places Grant and it has a COVID response related focus. He thought it would be a good opportunity for the Committee to secure funds to focus on future projects at Browns Court.

- The grant is due January 22nd.
- Grant award ranges from \$5,000-\$20,000.
- Project will need to be implemented by August 31, 2021

Ideas for Brown's Court:

- Dedicated parking
- Bocce court
- Dog Park
- Improved baseball fields

The Committee decided that we first need to have preliminary plans for the park before we apply for the Better Places, or similar, grant.

Justin offered \$1500 in Rise VT Amplify grant funds to support the creation of a Browns Court Park Plan. We can use the funds to hire a contractor to draft 3 options to present to the Town.

Next steps:

- Determine if there are any restrictions on the park because it was gifted to the Town.
- Jack will reach out to his contacts about drafting options for the park.

Kate made a motion to ask for permission from the Select Board to apply for up to \$1500 from the Rise VT Amplify grant to support the Browns Court park plan, Jack seconded.

Voting: unanimous.

Motion Carried.

Adjournment:

Motion by Jack to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kirsten.

Voting: unanimous. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Chrissy Keating