

Town of Milton, Vermont
Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Minutes

Wed, September 8, 2021 · 5:00 p.m.
Milton Municipal Building Community Room
and accessible by Zoom

Agenda

1. Called to Order at 5:05 p.m.

2. Amendments to Agenda – Jenna added to the Recreation Department Report a bullet regarding a Bias training event that was coming up.

3. Public Forum – there was no public present.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes – minutes from the past two meetings were approved at the end of the meeting at 6:55 PM.

5. Recreation Department Report

- FY22 Park Projects and CIP
 - Mountain biking – progress has been made due in large part to a work team from Fellowship of the Wheel, which is the Milton chapter of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association. The trails still need work.
 - Disc golf – the grand opening will be October 9 at 11 a.m., with dignitaries, a ribbon cutting ceremony, and give aways. Hoping to hold a clinic. The main Welcome sign is still being created, and the hope is it will be in place for the opening. The soft opening earlier has led to 42 ratings by users on the Udisc app, for an average approval rating of 4.2 out of 5.
 - Tennis court fencing – Ferrick fencing (contractor) made repairs of the tennis court fencing. A discussion was held on additional fencing needs of the eastern side of the park, and bids will be solicited from vendors for that work.
 - MTSD Service Day – the school district is having a service day for students on Friday, September 10 from 9 – 12. MaryAnn Carlson is organizing this, and tasks for the recreation department as well as other community needs will be worked on.
- Youth sports update – a lengthy discussion was held on youth sports, and whether the recreation department can (or should) play a part in organizing them.
 - Right now, Milton youth sports are organized by individual group, consisting mainly of parents whose children are participating. This leads to difficulties in consistent leadership, finding and training new volunteers when the current leadership's children move on. Milton is unique in not having their recreation department support youth sports – Colchester and other towns run their youth programs. But in order to bring that support under the Recreation department, they would need additional staffing.
 - The Recreation department was approached by the former Broncos football youth program organizer, who outlined the program, and what is needed to organize it and get it running again. An estimated 30 families are involved in youth football, and it is a feeder program for the middle school and high school teams. The Chair, Lindsey, asked the commission if they would support researching whether the Rec department could take on this work by outlining the time commitment, stipend needed for head coach and if payments would be used to encourage other coaches to take on the work. This will be discussed at the next Rec meeting. The commission agreed, and Jenna will check with the Finance Director to see if they can use a placeholder for the stipend in the upcoming budget submission on September 20. This would need to be part of the FY22 budget (being developed now), in order for this program to have a chance to run in Fall 2022. It is not running this year.
 - Fall Little League used the Recreation website for registration this Fall as a pilot for whether this helps the youth team, and to gauge how much work this involves for Recreation staff. The department charged a \$1 fee per registration for use, to cover some of the time, and early estimates are that future fees would be \$2 per registration.
- Touch-a-Truck update – this event was canceled until next year, hoping that a normal event will be able to be

held.

- Upcoming events: - the commission was encouraged to review this list, and let Jenna and Ben know what they can help with.
 - October: Disc Golf Grand Opening 10/9, Spirited Homes contest 10/20, LCATV Movie premier, Trunk-or-Treat 10/29, Haunted House → Haunted forest
 - November & December: Letters to Santa, Holiday Tree Lighting, Holiday Concert, Human Rights Day, Holiday Decorating Contest
- VRPA Conference on Recreation – Lake Morey, Oct 13 & 14 – Jenna and Ben are going. No other commissioners are able to attend.
- Budget FY23 – Jenna asked the commission for any ideas on what they would like to see included in the FY23 budget. Moore said he'd like to see a paved perimeter path all around the park for use by the community, and particularly the elderly, to be connected to the sidewalks – similar to the Williston Central School path. Bushey mentioned that additional basketball courts would be good, as the one we have is always full, and is a good activity for youth who are in the park.
- Other Recreation Department business – There is a two hour Bias training session on Tuesday, September 13, from 9-11, 1-3 and 5-7, conducted by Abundant Sun that is recommended to be attended by all town staff, and board and commission members. A couple of commission members will be attending, and the other commission members attend similar training in their own workplaces (Bushey through MTSD and Berteau through UVM).

6. Recreation Commission Report

- New member – Irfan Sehic
- FY22 Election (Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk). Lindsey was elected Chair, Moore elected Vice-Chair. We declined to elect a clerk, preferring to share note duties.
- Park projects & ideas for FY23
- Volunteer opportunities:
 - Fall events – let Jenna know if you can help.
 - Recruitment – Recreation and the Conservation Commissions need new members. Get the word out!
- Zoom meeting review – the commission said they liked the ability to join via Zoom, and would like to continue using it.
- Other Recreation Commission Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Berteau

