

Lancaster Recreation Committee Meeting  
Thursday, January 18, 2024  
7:00 PM via ZOOM

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting will be called to order at 7:05 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88967823226?pwd=a0R3NXFsMmdNUzZnWmNCbEVpdEIEZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 6782 3226

Passcode: 545580

## **II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

MOTION: To approve November 16, 2023, meeting minutes.

VOTE: unanimously approved.

## **III. SCHEDULED APPEARANCES & PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **IV. UPDATES/DISCUSSION**

- CPA Project Status/Application
  - Recreation has submitted two (2) applications.
  - Application #1: Tennis/Pickleball Courts
    - The current dollar amount (\$170,000) on the CPA application exceeds the limit in the fund.
      - Capital funds have been applied for to make up the amount not provide by CPA.
      - Win to work with Kelly Dolan- HHS Director, on updating the application.
        - Applications will be voted on at the next CPA meeting.
    - The hope is to build the new courts where the existing courts are as the area is surrounded by wetlands and could pose additional obstacles.
      - The proposal includes a hydrology study to ensure proper draining can be achieved.
    - The Master Plan shows the tennis courts being placed behind the baseball fields, if the courts can stay in their current location, there would be a reduction in the scope of the plan.
    - Basketball courts have been left out of the plan for multi-use within the tennis courts—with the two sports playing at the same time it can cause a conflict.

- Application #2- Beach shed and new gate.
  - Application cost- around \$3,500.
  - Move the current gate location closer to the road and install a new lighter weight gate.
    - This will add additional parking spaces.
    - This will limit those who don't pay to visit the beach while life guarded.
  - Beach attendant shed
    - This will allow for an attendant to be present as each car pulls in to check season passes or ensure each car entering pays the daily rate.
    - Bollards will also need to be installed 3-4 feet apart at the width of the entrance to keep a car from driving through/around the gate.
- MOTION: To approve the proposal of the tennis court renovation at Thayer Memorial Park as described.
  - VOTE: unanimously approved.
- MOTION: To approve the proposal of a new gate, new location of the gate, and attendant shed at the Town Beach.
  - VOTE: unanimously approved.
- Current CPA Projects- Baseball fields
  - Fencing just about finished.
  - Field resurfacing is complete.
  - Dugouts are complete.
    - Jim from Little League is proposing aluminum benches be purchased. They can be mounted to the concrete.
    - Mill Street field- bids being collected for dugouts to be installed.
    - It's unclear if there are enough CPA funds left to cover both project costs—Little League is willing to cover some of the costs if necessary.
- Street sign up-date.
  - Sherry, recreation committee member, emailed her updates as follows:
    - "One Way" signs on Harvard Rd by the playground have been removed. Turning on to Harvard Rd from Main Street remains a "One Way".
    - "No Parking" signs on Harvard Rd next to the playground have been removed.
    - "No Parking Overnight" will be installed once the DPW has fixed drainage on the side of the road. After a rainstorm or snow melts, the water is sitting in this area causing a soft shoulder and making it very muddy. DPW will work on that.

- A "Thayer Field" sign with an arrow is up at the intersection of Harvard Rd & Packard St.
- Ice Rink Update
  - Rink can open this weekend, Friday, January 19, 2024.
  - Win and Tom to set up the firepit.
    - Encourage residents to bring food to grill and sit by the fire.
- Open Gym
  - First night is on Friday, January 19, 2024 from 6pm -8pm
    - \$2 admission, 20 participants limit, bring your own balls.
    - LCC has availability Friday, Saturday, Sunday to host Open Gyms
- Winter/Spring Programming
  - Winter programming- Seven (7) programs running or being offered.
    - Archery- 16 participants (youth & adult)
    - Babysitting course- 12 participants (program full with a waitlist)
    - Pre-K offerings- T-ball & Mini Sports
    - Youth offering- Floor Hockey & Ultimate Sports
      - Hardest age group (8 – 12 years old) for registrations
    - Youth business programs (3 options)- 0 registrations
  - Spring programming.
    - Currently in the planning stages.
    - New vendor- Skyhawks—offering a Super Tots program, which starts at 2 years old.
      - Skyhawks follows a regimented curriculum which our current Pre-K sports vendor does not do.
- Summer Programming
  - 9-weeks with 22 programs (each week, 1 STEM & 1 Sport offering)
    - Skyhawks- 6 programs- Beginners golf, Track & Field, Volleyball, Summer Camp games & sports, STEM basketball.
    - Each program has the option of early arrival and/or late pickup.
    - This launched on 1/1/2024 and we currently have 36 registrations.
      - Promoting through Facebook, email blasts with MyRec, Nashboa elementary school emails (Lancaster, Bolton & Stow), and flyers for backpacks (our flyer & two (2) vendors).
      - Win encourages committee members to share these details via Facebook, sports groups, play groups, etc.
- Recreation Code of Conduct
  - Lancaster currently doesn't have one.
    - Surrounding towns and youth sports teams have this posted on their websites or disclaimers when registering for programs.

- Code can include—be respectful to others, be respectful to the property and equipment, understand all participants are at different learning levels.
  - MOTION: To ask Samantha to author a code of conduct to be signed when residents are registering for recreation events.
    - VOTE: unanimously approved.
- Hockey Rink/Deck-Hockey idea
  - Could a CPA application be put in for a permanent ice hockey/deck hockey rink? How does the CPA process work?
    - Is the idea well socialized and has public support?
    - Proposed Location- thinking of neighbors, community centered, etc.
    - Pictures of what the project might look like.
    - Project Overview.

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Opportunity for the public to address concerns, make comments and offer suggestions on operations/programs but not on personnel matters. Complaints or criticism directed at staff, volunteers, or other officials shall not be permitted.

## **VI. Adjourn**

- Schedule next meeting
  - February 15, 2024 @ 7pm.
- **Close of meeting at 7:56pm**