

Falls Village Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 8th, 2023 7:00 PM
Falls Village Town Hall
108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031

A meeting of the Falls Village Recreation Commission was held in person on this date and called to order at 7:04 pm by Ted Moy. **In attendance:** Dan Carr (arrived late) & Ted Moy (Co-Chairmen), Dan Glass, Melissa Lopes (Commissioners), Emily Peterson (Director). Selectmen Dave Barger & Chris Kinsella & Rachel Mills (Guests)
Absent: Lauren Killawee (Commissioner).

Public Comment: Chris Kinsella and Dave Barger attended the meeting to introduce themselves as part of the newly elected BOS and reported positive comments on a successful collaboration with the DM Hunt Library on the 2023 Fall Festival and 2023 Community Halloween Party and Trunk-or-Treat.

Old Business

1. **FVRC Meeting Minutes of October 11th, 2023:** MOTION by Dan Glass, seconded by Ted Moy to receive and approve the Meeting Minutes of October 11th, 2023, as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Solar Field Involvement:** Members of the FVRC discussed the current proposed location as well other possible locations for the solar field at the town farm property. Ted Moy will send a letter to the newly elected BOS with the FVRC's opinion and decision on the proposed solar field project.
3. **Survey "Future of the Recreation Center":** Four question survey (attached) was posted on the Town Website and social media - Falls Village Recreation Page, Falls Village Forum Page and sent out by email though Falls Village Community. As of the date of this meeting 41 people have completed the survey. There is no deadline to complete the survey - and one community member suggested to Melissa Lopes that prior to doing the survey, a suggestion was made to view the town farm property (other than the pool area) to provide better ideas of what is wanted. Commissioners like this idea and will schedule an "Open-House" dates before it is too cold and snowy. Once a date is decided - information will be posted.
 - A. **Recreation Center Work Group:** It was pointed out at the last meeting of the FVRC that a sub-committee needs to be created to carry a plan to build the future of the Recreation Center from "initial intake of ideas", to "coordinated community effort", to "execution". Ted Moy and Melissa Lopes will work together to review survey results and reach out to those people who are interested in supporting the project in some capacity to become members of the sub-committee.

New Business

1. **Meeting Dates for 2024:** Motion by Dan Carr, seconded by Ted Moy to accept the dates for 2024 FVRC Regular Meetings, as attached, motion passed unanimously.
2. **Co-Sponsor Guidelines:** Tabled until next meeting.
3. **Annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Celebration:** Emily Peterson reported that original date of annual tree lighting and carols on December 9th was the same date as the DM Hunt 12x12 event. After discussion it was decided to change the date of annual tree lighting and carols to **December 2nd, 2023 at 4:30 PM** on the town green. Tim Downs has been contacted to arrange for a tree. Following the tree lighting, there will be a visit with Santa inside the Center on Main with complimentary cookies, popcorn and hot chocolate. There will be live music with Kala Farnham in collaboration with Twelve Moons Coffee House. Seniors of Falls Village have graciously volunteered their time to help Santa by wrapping gifts to be handed out at the holiday celebration. There will be ornament making at the D.M. Hunt Library from 10-12 AM which can be used to decorate our tree.

FVRC would like to be more inclusive for the members of our Falls Village community. FVRC members discussed other December holiday celebrations that have been missed in past years, specifically Hanukkah. In 2023, Hanukkah begins at sundown on Thursday, Dec. 7 and lasts until sundown on Friday, Dec. 15. As a starting point, this year, a Menorah will be lit during Hanukkah.

MOTION made by Melissa Lopes, seconded by Dan Carr. to purchase a Menorah to be lit during the nights of Hanukkah. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Recruitment: Ted Moy and Dan Glass will work together to review survey results and reach out to those people who are interested in becoming members of the FVRC commission.

MOTION made by Dan Carr, seconded by Dan Glass to recommend the appointment of Rachel Mills as member of the Recreation Commission for one (1) term. Motion passed unanimously. Ted Moy will send a letter of endorsement to the Board of Selectmen for appointment before the next meeting.

5. 2024 Ski Club: As stated in the last meeting it is already time to start planning 2024 Ski Club. Dan Carr has requested help in organizing scholarship requests and payment collection. Mohawk Mountain has taken care of electronic enrollment and completing forms through their website. Dan Glass has agreed to help with this.

Any other business to properly come before the Recreation Commission:

1. 2023 Ski Club: Dan Carr reported that Linda Paviol stated that Mohawk Mountain has not sent a bill for payment from 2023 Ski Club yet. Dan Carr will follow up with Mohawk and request the bill for payment. Melissa Lopes will look into additional grants to cover the cost of Ski Club.

2. Rec-Pay: Emily Peterson stated that registration for FVRC programs would be easier and payments for those FVRC programs that are paid to the town would be faster by using computer software. Emily Peterson will forward information on this software to the newly elected BOS to see if this is something that we can get approval to purchase in 2023/2024 budget.

3. Collaboration with DM Hunt Library: DM Hunt Library contacted Emily Peterson to discuss collaborating with the FVRC on a December 2023/ After Holiday event. More information to follow.

MOTION by Dan Carr, seconded by Ted Moy to work with the DM Hunt Library on a December 2023/After Holiday event with Emily Peterson acting on behalf of FVRC Members. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Volunteer Database: The FVRC is looking at ways to have community members volunteer at FVRC events. Maybe they don't want to be tied down to monthly meetings or a specific project, but would love to help out at our holiday events (for example - Serving Pizza at our Halloween Party)...or have a skill that they would like to share with us (possibly Creative Kids Club or Ski Club). Members are brainstorming on how to get the word out and looking at to create a database (list) of people who have said that they would love to help with these types of things.

Adjournment: There be no further business to discuss, MOTION by Dan Glass, seconded by Dan Carr to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13th, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Lopes, Secretary

The Future of the Recreation Center

The Town of Canaan / Falls Village was gifted a 60+ acre plot of land that was intended for recreational use for access by the residents of the town. Back in 2001, the Recreation Commission developed a formal plan to better utilize this land, and as a result, we have our terrific town pool. The plan was much deeper, involving sports fields, walking trails and more. Due to lack of funding and commission turnover this plan stalled and more-or-less became forgotten.

The current Recreation Commissioners were recently informed of this plan and we're excited to take on the challenge of developing this space. However, we don't want to merely take on the old plan. Rather, we want to make sure the plan we pursue is informed by the desires of the residents and will meet the current and future recreational needs of this town. Perhaps some of the previous plan would remain, perhaps new amenities should be considered. We're hoping to learn from you what you think would make for an excellent Recreation Center.

[Redacted text]



* Indicates required question



ACRES

Developed Park	40
Watershed	12
Traverse Route	6
Unimproved Land	6
Total	64

PROPOSED SITE FEATURES

- A. Picnic Area & Trail System
- B. Restroom Facility
- C. Swimming Pool
- D. Pool House
- E. Pavilion
- F. Multi-use Run
- G. Picnic Area
- H. Playground
- I. Parking

LEGEND

- Traverse Route
- Trail System
- Swimming Pool
- Pool House
- Pavilion
- Multi-use Run
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Parking
- Restroom Facility
- Picnic Area & Trail System
- Traverse Route
- Trail System
- Swimming Pool
- Pool House
- Pavilion
- Multi-use Run
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Parking
- Restroom Facility
- Picnic Area & Trail System

DRAWING NOTES

- The plan shows the final design of the park. It is subject to change without notice. The location of the land is shown in the drawing. The location of the land is shown in the drawing.
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Your answer

Your answer

The Recreation Commission has a couple vacancies. Would you be interested in serving on the Recreation Commission? If yes, use this space to let us know how to contact you. *

Your answer

Maybe serving on the Commission is just a bit more commitment than you can offer right now. Perhaps you are interested in spending some time helping get this Recreation Center project off the ground. If this sounds like you, use this space to let us know how to contact you. *

Your answer

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Falls Village Recreation Commision
2024 Meeting Dates

The Falls Village Recreation Commission meets monthly, on every second Wednesday of the month.

Wednesday January 10th, 2024

Wednesday February 14th, 2024

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Wednesday April 10th, 2024

Wednesday May 8th, 2024

Wednesday June 12th, 2024

Wednesday July 10th, 2024

Wednesday August 14th, 2024

Wednesday September 11th, 2024

Wednesday October 9th, 2024

Wednesday November 13th, 2024

Wednesday December 11th, 2024