

Received 8/27/25  
2:46 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

Durham Recreation Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
7 p.m., Thursday, August 14, 2025  
Durham Community Center- Room 1

**Call to order:** 7:00 pm

**Roll Call:** David Mastroianni, Janet Morganti, Chris Balay, Stephanie Fisher on zoom (left meeting at 7:43 pm), Rita Van Steenberg, Kathy Marzano, Mallory Castro

**Absent:** Mark Simmons, Kim Johansen, Lindsay Dahlheimer, Pam Carey

**Pledge of Allegiance-**Led by Dave

**Seating of Alternates:** Kathy M. was seated for Mark S.

**Approval of Agenda:** **Approved**

**Approval of Minutes:** June 12, 2025-Motion made by Janet, second by Chris. All aye. Rita abstained.

**Public Comment:** none

**Chair Comments:**

- Dave explained that recreation committee was given a worksheet by Town Planner, Robin Newton, to complete for the updating of the Durham Plan of Conservation and Development. We are scheduled to meet with the Planning and Zoning Commission on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, but we won't be ready. Janet will contact Robin N. to reschedule.
- Dave will share form sent out by Robin N.
- Dave informed the committee that our playgrounds need to be inspected on a yearly basis.
- Slides get very hot in the summer and the committee should procure slide canopies/shades

**Fun Run Update:**

- The collaboration among the recreation committee, the New Benchwarmers and Liberty Bank is going very well. Henry Bugai, Benchwarmer Chair and coordinator, is doing a great job.
- Participation is growing weekly with over 200 participants.
- Mallory reported that on Tuesday, 8/12/25, there were many new people participating.

**Allyn Brook Concerts:**

- Good feedback and attendance
- Pizza truck and ice cream a hit
- Kings of Karma really brought out the community and the Durham Middletown Orchestra was great. Played modern day music and show tunes

- We need better signage
- Brian talking to Tim Fisher to get student bands and possibly extend the concert series into the fall while daylight is still plentiful.

#### **National Night Out: Stephanie F. reported**

- Successful
- She will send out a survey to participants for feedback
- Prefers to keep it in Durham
- Middlefield didn't participate as planned
- Dave suggested meeting with Middlefield early next year
- Tent layout positioning was not favorable; will work on a better layout plan

#### **Farmers' Market Update:**

- Steady attendance
- Vendors want it weekly
- Problems with vendors running out of product and not showing up
- There are more vendors on board and overall, it's doing well
- Dave wants to get support from town to have a stipend for future market coordinators as it is a lot of work
- Mallory mentioned that we need a speaker system and Dave will get one since we approved the purchase a while ago

#### **Winter Market Update:**

- Proposed starting in October 2025 and running through March 2026
- Need more visible signage like the banner signs
- Want to keep the market at every other week

#### **New Business/Future Plans:**

- Trunk or Treat plan for Saturday, October 25, 2025
- Individuals or groups can participate
- Cider and donuts
- Come up with new activities like a haunted room, etc.
- Dave would like the Board of Finance to create a specific line item for recreation activities such as Trunk or Treat and tree lighting
- Revisit getting more benches at Allyn Brook

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment: 8:30 pm** Motion by Janet, second by Chris, all aye