

Received 3/19/26  
12:40 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

**Durham Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**

March 12, 2026 7 p.m.

Durham Community Center – Room One

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/BrfSZXKmduneKfzi\\_Pg\\_5TX2RxRB\\_GEe4xkr6H9kLsj1gQM-NFbWPPNioFrbGJyo.gRjruSsNuNFWtTED](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/BrfSZXKmduneKfzi_Pg_5TX2RxRB_GEe4xkr6H9kLsj1gQM-NFbWPPNioFrbGJyo.gRjruSsNuNFWtTED)

Passcode: 3Vp6Sh\$2

Call to Order/Roll Call: 7:03 p.m.

Present: Dave Mastroianni, Janet Morganti, Pam Carey, Mallory Castro, Chris Balay, Brian MacDuff, Jane Eddleston, Rita Van Steenbergen, Kim Johansen.

Absent: Stephanie Fisher, Brian Madeiros.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Janet M.

Seating of Alternates: Brian MacDuff for Stephanie F.

Motion to approve the March agenda was put forth by Chris B., Mallory C. with second. All in favor.

Motion to approve the February meeting minutes was put forth by Mallory C., Chris B. with second. All in favor.

No public comment.

Winter Market Update: There were a total of 23 vendors at the last market, resulting in the need to turn some away due to capacity restrictions. Dave M. will remain available for occasional help with future markets if needed. Conducting markets every other week posed some challenges, particularly with customers getting weeks mixed up and missing dates altogether. On a positive note, some market vendors have begun offering programs in partnership with Durham Recreation. Revenue from the Summer and Winter markets will be tallied.

Easter Egg Hunt: Room 2 at the Community Center will be open from 5-9 p.m. on March 26 for egg stuffing, open to Committee members. A new Easter Bunny costume is needed as the previous costume is missing. Chris B. moved to authorize \$80 for the purchase of a new costume, Mallory C. with second; all in favor. Wave times for the various age groups will need to be confirmed for accuracy, as last year there was confusion and participants reported that start times did not match those listed on Rec Desk. There was also discussion questioning the order of age groups currently posted on Rec Desk, to be confirmed with Brian M. Dave M. will provide a map for egg placement used in previous years. Agreed upon rain date is Saturday, April 4, 2026. Student participation will be confirmed to ensure adequate help.

National Fitness Campaign (NFC): Janet M. spoke with Vanessa Bautista of Wallingford, who is spearheading their project with the NFC. Their project originally began two years ago but was stalled due to finances and is now in progress. Approval for an NFC project in Durham would require evaluation by several Boards, including Planning & Zoning, Wetlands, and Finance as well as consideration from Public Works and others. The NFC application is 100 questions. Grant funding offered is \$35,000 but functions more like a discount; the NFC would assist the Board in finding additional funding. NFC criteria for the project includes shade, sidewalk access and ADA accessibility. A canopy for the site would cost an additional \$30,000. Site survey is required at additional cost. Concrete pad would be at additional cost and the responsibility of Recreation; pad warranty would also need to be considered. In the event

the site is not ready when equipment materials are delivered, Recreation would be responsible for moving and housing the materials until the site is complete. In light of the logistic and financial hurdles for an NFC project, the Committee agreed that we would not proceed with an NFC project. However, considering the benefit of and likely interest in outdoor exercise equipment to various age groups, we will move forward in investigating individual pieces of equipment for purchase and placement.

Allyn Brook Park Picnic Tables: There are currently 7 picnic tables in the pavilion of varying sizes and styles. John Jenkins of Public Works has graciously agreed to assemble tables if Recreation procures materials. Pressure treated wood was recommended. ADA accessible table(s) would fill a critical need for several residents. A quote is pending from Nick Planeta (Planeta Woodworking). A quote was received from SJD Construction for \$666/table. The Eagle Scouts may elect to contribute a table. A call will go out to the community if none of these options prove viable.

Recreation Director Update: The Youth Winter session had a good turnout and a Spring session is currently being offered. Basketball camp is set to take place July 6-10 and August 10-14. Annual Allyn Brook Spring cleanup is scheduled for April 25 in conjunction with Sustainable Durham.

The Summer Playground session is scheduled for June 22-July 9 and July 20-August 6. There will be various schedule offerings and groups for ages 4-6 and grades 1-8. The cost per session in 2025 was \$120. 323 attendees were recorded over the two sessions, and family pricing was offered to discount those with multiple children. At the recent presentation to the Board of Finance, it was recommended that rates increase by \$30/session to ensure that the program breaks even rather than loses money as it has in past years. The Committee requested clarification from Brian M. regarding current planned offerings for the program to include in its consideration of potential pricing changes.

Summer Concert Series: The schedule is largely filled with only 3 dates without an act. Vendors are in place.

Fun Run: This was approved by RSD13 and will begin at the end of June, to continue through the second week of August. Clarification of written RSD13 approval is necessary.

Farmers' Market: There is \$5,000 set aside in the 2026 budget for a Market Master stipend. The Committee discussed that Dave M. will be stepping down from Market duties effective immediately. No other Committee members are able to fill this need. Chris B. moved to approve a letter from the Committee to the Board of Selectmen stating that the Farmers' Market would be returned to the purview of the Town of Durham; second by Pam C., all in favor.

The Committee discussed possibly changing the regular meeting night. All present agreed that meetings would remain the second Thursday of each month.

The Committee would like to revisit out-of-town resident costs for all Recreation programming.

Adjournment: 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mallory K. Castro