

Town of North Canaan

Recreation Commission

February 20, 2024



Present: Chairwoman Lindsey Crane, Tom Bunce (via zoom) Marilisa Camardi, Tracy Allyn, Tonya Roussis, Laura Bosio, Director Adam Bunce

Chairwoman Crane called the meeting to order at 7:31pm

**Ms. Camardi made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of item “any other business to come before the commission” to the end of the agenda. Ms. Bosio seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Ms. Camardi made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Ms. Roussis seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Public Comment: Mike Reagan from the Events Committee spoke to commission. Does the commission have a fire pit? No – they used a personal one. Several years ago the events committee put up lights under the pavilion which were destroyed. They are looking to put up lights again and want to coordinate with this commission for when the season would end in order to take them down and help with any clean up. Ms. Camardi explained the rink will likely not be put up this year, but that lights next year would be an asset. The events committee requested to reserve the pavilion for the town wide tag sale. Mr. Bunce just got the request and will get it to them. Mr. Reagan would like the commission to reconsider the greenway falling under them. He feels they have a better infrastructure to possibly hire a couple people to maintain the trail. Selectman Ohler stated that there is still at least on paper a greenway committee. There was discussion of having volunteers help monthly with clean up. Mr. Reagan explained what he has done to clean the trail and hope for maintaining it into the future perhaps as part of the rec summer program. There was discussion of the Canaan Foundation and their role in paying for part time help and possible other grant opportunities. Selectman Ohler spoke about how this commission may evolve and that the town is in discussions with the state about receiving the other 2 greenways. In other towns park and recreation go together. Once there is a decision about the other greenways then it would make more sense to figure out the maintenance of them. It may be a much broader commission at that time.

Justin Ellison - thanked the commission for the extra gym time at nces for basketball practice. He spoke to the commission regarding the New Hartford coach trying to put together more games by bringing towns together. He will send Director Bunce the contact information. He also spoke about the Watertown coach looking to do a spring league - this is just in the early stages. Discussion of summer basketball camp. Canaan did not do it.

Selectman Whiting asked the commission to let the selectmen know if there is anything- a project or something else that may need to be done that can be put into the budget. Discussion of the concrete around the pool, carpentry on doors entering the pool. Ms. Camardi stated they will get them a wish list. There is money in non-recurring fund for some of it, but there is likely stuff that need more money for it. There was a discussion regarding the dugouts and redoing them. Also discussion around the mosquitos in that area and how bad they are. The area is always wet.

Director Bunce report:

Ski club has 4 trips left. He confirmed the next 4 Mondays with Mohawk as long as weather cooperates. They may have to double up during the week. The trips have gone well. Shawn Finney has chaperoned. Mr. Ellison stated they usually close by Easter which is March 31 this year. If the group misses a day the kids can get a voucher to go on their own. Director Bunce would like to discuss with the school about getting it more into their curriculum.

Basketball is going well. Co-ed teams at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level begin to get tricky. Saturdays they have had enough to do some scrimmages. Kathy is doing an amazing job. There is definitely talk about wanting more. Some varsity players are helping out with the groups too.

Baseball (little league) signups have about 2.5 weeks left. The numbers are getting there. 61 kids currently (from tball all the way up). Hoping to have the softball registrations done by the end of March.

Art show would like to use the field in May. There was a discussion of allowing dogs. It would be their responsibility to ensure the field is cleaned up and their insurance liability for any issues. There is talk of doing it again around fall festival time.

There was discussion about doing some type of sports theme obstacle course during family fun week this year instead of the punt/pass/kick. Will have to look more into it.

Treasurer report: Marilisa Camardi - \$3379.34 has been collected for ski club and we are waiting for an invoice from Mohawk. This will be a wash. The Balance in the special rec account before ski club is \$9329.15. Grant request to Canaan Foundation for the rink tarp has been submitted. The 24/25 budget proposal with no increase has been submitted. Ms. Camardi is going to request to review the Eversource bill as this commission is paying for street lights which may be inappropriate. There were funds reallocated to increase payroll with minimum wage going up and for increase in price of chemicals.

Old Business:

Basketball/tennis court sign update: Lindsey needs to take pictures and get them to Adam so he can follow up on it. There was a discussion regarding the tennis court and pickle ball. There is items to be put on the list for the selectmen.

Group Sponsored Events: Laura Bosio – She received the response from the Yard Goats. Suggestion to send out a survey to get an idea of what the residents may want. Options include the sky deck or general seating, getting a 56 passenger bus for \$24 per person or taking personal transportation. There are several options. The sky deck holds 50-60 people. There was a discussion regarding UCONN games and getting group discount and whether men or women's basketball. Director Bunce will work on the survey.

Skating rink is on hold waiting for the request for liner. Selectman Bunce offered to dig out the pond, but due to liability the pond is not a good option. It is better to do it at the pavilion.

Fundraiser scheduled for April 21. The funds would go for the basketball hoop. Discussion of whether they can do a 50/50 raffle. Selectman Ohler will speak to the town attorney. The Brewery does most everything. Chairwoman Crane will speak with Chris Tripler about it.

Justin Ellison offered to give money from J.J. Pools for the basketball hoop.

New Business:

Easter Egg Hunt. Easter is March 31. Because Director Bunce will be away the weekend before it was decided to do the hunt rain/snow/shine on March 16. 100 bags should be enough. Discussion of where the bunny signs got put- they will be looked for. Ms. Camardi will look into advertising on the theater marquis.

Chairwoman Crane asked the commission if the meetings could be moved to 7:00pm vs. 7:30. The commission was in agreement. Beginning next month, they will be at 7:00pm.

There was nothing further to come before the commission.

**Ms. Roussis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Allyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary

