

**Town of Winchendon
Winchendon Parks and Recreation Commission
August 1, 2023 Minutes-6:30pm
4th Floor Conference Room, Town Hall**

Committee Members Present: Dawn Higgins, Tiffany Newton (Recreation Coordinator), Debra Bradley (chair), Andrew Beauvais, Debra Kane, Emily Croteau, Dylan Romanowski

Absent Members: Emily Bradley

Non-Members: Audrey LaBrie, Garndner Wood, Vivian Sellars, Quinne Richard, & Jacque Ellis

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

New Member Interest: Still looking for new members, Tiffany emailed Liz Beauregard about her interest but hasn't heard back from her.
Debra Bradley asked if we can list the vacant seats on the website so people don't think it is full

We took the Renaissance Faire out of order due to the big number of interested people in the room

New Business

Renaissance Faire

- Recreation coordinator welcomed everyone and thanked them for their interest. To keep things short for this meeting as we joined it with our regular Recreation meeting we are looking for input on just a couple things and then we will go around and find out a little about why you are interested and if there is anything you think is a key element we should be looking at as we prepare for our next meeting
- We will be scheduling another meeting just for the Ren Faire soon: Decided on Aug 9th at 6:30 and continuing twice a month on Wednesdays

Main Points for this meeting

- The suggested date was April 27th and 28th due to the NH Ren Faire being the 2nd and 3rd weekend in May.
- Discussion was had about if we should host it on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday OR just Saturday and Sunday. The discussion was made to host it for just Saturday and Sunday.

Individual interests

- Audrey-would like to be general help. She has a Ren Faire persona and goes every year to a large one in Maryland
- Quinn- Wants to be involved and is interested in role playing
- Viviane-Wants to be involved

- Gardner- He is into dressing up and is an artist. Wants to help with props and costumes etc.
- Jackie-Has about 20 years of performing at Ren Faires including King Richards. She can teach Renaissance dance as well as dialect. She has been a music and dance director for these events.
- General suggestions: Security at the door to keep weapons out. Get a logo i.e. Clyde in jousting garb. Blacksmiths & Glass blowers. If the park is too small we can consider doing it at the Militia field.

Recreation Coordinator Updates

Thank you

- I just want to thank you all for stepping up while I was on vacation and running these events. Not just then but always because these events can't happen without you.

Event Re-caps

- Bonnie Page
 - Went well but was a small crowd
 - The crowd was new comers so they had lots of questions about the park and it's uses
 - We should continue to bring different types of events to the park to draw in new people.
- Movie Nights
 - Movie nights were overall very successful with a revenue of \$877
 - We will continue these next year
 - To improve we need to invest in a pull down screen and be mindful of the length of the movie and the length of the day.
- GAR Concerts
 - They are good but they do not bring in enough people.
 - Ron Morey got some feedback and we are asked not to have him back
 - Next year we plan to host some bigger free concerts at the amphitheater and eliminate the ones at GAR park.
- Beatles Tribute
 - The weather was a big factor
 - We need to adjust our timeframe for calling events due to weather
 - We had 60 attendees despite the rain
 - After paying the police and sound we made a little over \$1000 back for the concert
- General Updates
 - Ahimsa Haven changed their date again to Sept 24th
 - CFCE will be doing a nature scavenger hunt on Aug 15th with a raindate of Aug 22nd.
 - We have booked a free opening act for Sept 9th and a paid one per Deb B's suggestion for Sept 15th with a cost of \$300

New Business

Renaissance Faire

- See above for item taken out of order

2024 Community Schedule

- After some discussion about both options Andrew made a motion to accept Option 1 as our 2024 Community Day programming schedule

Suggestions for 2024 Programming

- Ideas & Brainstorming
 - Puppet Show
 - 90's Birthday Party-June
 - Large Scale Game Day/Candy Land
 - Barbie-May
 - Touch a Truck
 - Animals & pets-Woofstock?-Aug

Old Business:

Member Initiative Updates

- **Andrew-** Will be meeting with Fishing and Boating next Thursday for a location
 - Whenever Water Sports needs to know how many people visit Winchendon
 - Looking for 250,000 a year
 - If not we can buy a unit for \$15,000 and they will still cover liability, maintenance, and customer service.
- **Emily C-**Boosters approved \$500 for athletes movie night on Nov 4th
 - Need to get pools for balls and decide on movie
- **Deb K-**There is a nature walk with NQTA
 - Will have a table at Family Weekend to promote the hiking club
 - They will start at the park and in Winchendon then branch out to other surrounding locations.
- **Deb B-** letterboxing not Geocaching
 - Goal is to plant at least 1 on each of the trails in Winchendon
- **Dawn-**Ren Faire obviously we just had an update on this earlier in the meeting
- **Emily B-**She has contacted Whalom traveling museum but does not have an update. This would be held at GAR park

Craftermoons-Mar

- Let's list it as TBD in the brochure for now
- Basket weaving through The Craft School in Keene is \$85pp which, is too expensive.
- Candle making was suggested so we will look into that as well.

Paid Admission Events

- Tabled until the next meeting

Minutes

- Dawn made a motion to approve the minutes from July 11, 2023 as presented
Deb K 2nd
Debra B (Y) Dawn (Y) Debra K (Y) Emily B () Andrew (Y) Emily C (Y) Dylan ()

Financials

Monthly Finance Recap

- There were no questions or concerns about the budget

Pricing to Print Brochures

- It will cost \$441.60 to print 500 brochures through White Dog Printing. It will cost \$831.60 to print 1000. Full ink replacement will cost \$680.
- We do have \$300 additional in our regular line item budget after cancelling a band due to rain and a \$600 budget for office supplies and expenses.

Other Business

- Who will be volunteering on Aug 5th for our Community Day
 - Deb B and Deb K
 - We need to better get volunteers as we have already discussed, would calling them directly be better.
 - Call Steph Rondo and see if anyone needs volunteer hours.
- Suggested that we consider asking for a new Town Tree at the new 4 C's Garage location.

Adjourned: 8:47 p.m.

Deb B made a motion to adjourn and Andrew 2nd

Debra B (Y) Dawn (Y) Debra K (Y) Emily B () Andrew (Y) Emily C () Dylan ()

Approved:


 Andrew

 Debra Bradley

 Dawn Higgins

 Emily Watson

 Emily Bradley