



*January 27, 2017
minutes Approved*

Winchendon Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes from meeting on January 19th, 2017
at the Winchendon Town Hall, Robinson Broadhurst Conference Room

Present: Michaela Benedict, Tina Santos, Laura Gaydos, Jay Pereira

Absent: Brian Dickens, Noel Veilleux

Call to Order: 5:51

Agenda: 2016 Year in Review, Annual Report Drafting, Approve Minutes from January 11th Meeting

The meeting began with the committee checking in on old business discussed at the prior meeting.

Michaela reported that the Murdock Key Club had not met since the January 11th meeting, and had not decided on whether they would be interested in vending uncooked food at the summer concert series. The Little League concession booth will be contacted if Key Club is unable to. Tina Santos added that she had contacted Barbara Anderson, who suggested checking about whether a permit would be necessary to sell food. The committee also decided to contact the Board of Health to inquire about necessary documentation to be able to sell food.

Tina Santos spoke of contacting Town Manager Keith Hickey about possible locations to store Parks and Rec assets. Manager Hickey suggested to store the items in the basement file room, which is climate-controlled and easily accessible, rather than the town storage, and that the Town Hall auditorium is insecure and would therefore be an inappropriate place to store the committee's items.

Laura noted that she was aware that the Christmas lights purchased by the committee and the ornaments from the town Christmas tree had been taken down on January 11th and were located at the fire station. Laura stated she would pick up the items as soon as possible.

Laura expressed the intent to draft the Annual Report with the input of the committee. The committee reviewed the important events of the 2016 calendar year, starting with the town Easter

Egg Hunt on March 19th 2016 at 10 am in the Militia field at Old Center. Noel Veillux and his wife placed 800 eggs throughout the field, and despite an Easter bunny cancellation due to sickness, a large number of children participated. Next, the committee organized the concert series which occurred on Fridays in June, July, and August and included the acts of Beatles for Sale, The BIG RanDom, Walden Whitham and Tattoo, Night with Noel Veillux, Jake McKelvie and the Countertops, And Brian Dickens and Please Academy. On September 17th, 2016, the Parks and Rec Committee participated in the Fall Festival by holding a pumpkin painting contest for children under the age of 12. Three winners were chosen who received gift baskets of candy and gift cards and 150 pumpkins were painted in all. On the first Friday of the months of October (October 7th) and December (December 2nd), the First Friday event was held, where various artists, writers, and performers shared their works for an audience. The last event of the year, the town Christmas Tree Lighting, occurred on December 3rd 2016. The Murdock Chamber Singers and Murdock High School Chorus sung carols, Wayne Cochran, dressed as Santa, handed out goodie bags to the children attendees, and the Murdock Middle School Cheerleaders served five gallons of hot chocolate.

In closing, Tina suggested that at the next meeting, the committee should look at the upcoming events of the 2017 year, and create a list of necessary items, contacts, and considerations for each event, based on issues that arose during the planning and implementation of 2016 events. Laura added that the planning for the annual Easter Egg Hunt should begin in February. In addition, Laura noted that Ruth DeAmicis should be contacted to find out the day that all members of the town receive mail for advertising purposes.

Committee moved 4-0 to adjourn at 7:42 pm

Next meeting: Thursday January 26th, 2017 at 6:00pm, Town Hall, Robinson Broadhurst Conference Room