

HARTFORD PARKS & RECREATION MINUTES

Commission Members In Attendance

Allison Childs, David M. Crocco Jr., Tom McCleary, Nikki Boyle

September 12, 2024, 5:05 pm

Commission Members Absent

Joeseeph Denny, Brett Mayfield

Others in Attendance

Scott Hausler, Director, Sue Bucholz, Selectboard Liaison

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by _____ Allison Childs, Seconded by: _____ Tom McCleary

In Favor _____ all _____ Opposed _____

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? _____ Approved _____

Citizen Comments

Sue Bucholz said she loves the Parks and Recreation Department for the service provided to the community.

Commission Member Comments

None

Directors Report

See Directors Report - Summer camp went well; Tatum and staff finalizing reports which will be used to review and assess summer programs.

Scott mentioned the purchase of new mowing equipment. Pathways around Maxfield area are being rejuvenated.

Fall and Winter catalog out. Fall programs up and running

Scheduling of WABA ice arena is ongoing. There is much demand for ice time. Priority given to school groups, particularly Upper Valley Hockey Association, other youth groups and Hartford High School hockey teams.

Electronic bulletin board to be installed in front of the Municipal building.

Scott discussed nascent interest in restoring Wright reservoir. There are parties in town who would like to see a body of water located in town for recreation. Dewey Pond was mentioned, however, currently weed choked and any action would require coordination with Quechee Lakes Association and US Army Corp of Engineering. A recent Vermont State reassessment of Wright reservoir by air caused the State to increase the hazard rating. A catastrophic release of water if dam breeched could wash out I 89. Currently, interested

parties are studying the regulations and the work that would be required to repair the dam and bring the reservoir back.

Old Business

Recreation Center Survey Disbursement – Scott mentioned that the last survey was distributed electronically. He said it was too expensive to send to every household on the Grand List. Survey can be sent out electronically through Recreation Center’s website Constant Contact. Also, can be distributed by email to all Hartford School students as a pdf attachment. Also, Scott will have Margaret Marion make a poster about survey and then place posters on A-frames which can be located around town. Scott suggested allowing 2 or 3 weeks to get survey responses.

Motion – Nikki Boyle made a motion and Tom McCleary seconded to approve beginning process of distributing survey. All approved.

Strategic Plan looked at. Motion made by Nikki Boyle and seconded by Allison Childs to accept Commission review of the Strategic Plan. All approved.

Needle drop box idea on hold. The Town Manager expressed interest in the needle drop box plan, he wants to know where they will be located, etc..

Scott provided a copy of the Stipend Program Policy to each Commission member present at the meeting.

FERC Update – nothing to report. Scott did say that a regional approach to dealing with the FERC and the Great Hydro re-certification process. For example, the Town Managers from Lebanon, Hanover and Hartford could join ranks to go before the FERC in addressing concerns.

New Business

Scott did a quick review of the Master Plan for Parks and Recreation. Currently, plan is part of the Town of Hartford’s Master Plan but will eventually be a stand-alone plan. Scott mentioned grant money could be available from the Two Rivers Planning Commission for development of Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Scott mentioned that reserve accounts need to be increased to meet future needs for large capital improvements. Also, energy audit was mentioned to increase energy efficiency and to reduce loss of energy. Master Plan should be read and reviewed by commission members to make suggestions for improvements. Hopefully, agreed upon improvements can be incorporated into document, it can then be approved by commission members and submitted to the Planning and Development Office.

10/10/24 @ 5:15 pm at the Municipal Building

Adjourn

6:32 pm meeting adjourned

All in Favor

Respectfully submitted by: Thomas McCleary

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Date: 09/12/24

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TM', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hartford Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Chair: David M. Crocco Jr. (7/25/2024)

Vice Chair: Allison Childs (04/04/2025)

Clerk: Tom McCleary (03/08/2024)

Member: Brett Mayfield (05/16/2025)

Member: Nikki Boyle (04/04/2025)

Member: Joeseeph Denny