

Monkton Recreation Committee
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
6:00 to 7:00 PM
Meeting conducted at New Town Hall

Members Present: John Zaikowski, Paul Low, Rick Imes, Tim Hunt, Adam Crary, Ed Cook

Other guests: Cathy Buscaglia, Monkton Dog Park Committee

1. Call to Order: Zaikowski called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM
 - a. Prior to taking up agenda items, Buscaglia updated the Committee on dog park activities: the shade structure project has been approved by the Vermont Housing Conservation Board and Division of Historic Preservation. Construction is being delayed until spring. Buscaglia asked if there could be lighting at the dog park. Low advised that when Morse Park was originally established, because neighboring landowners had concerns with lighting, the Rec Committee decided not to install lighting that would cause privacy or distraction issues. Low will look further into zoning issues and report back.

2. Review and approval of October meeting minutes: No changes or modifications to the minutes. **Hunt made a motion to approve the minutes. Cook seconded. All were in favor (6-0-0).**

3. Basketball update and equipment needs: Zaikowski reported that basketball is up and running. Monkton has three teams: 5-6 girls, 5-6 boys, and co-ed 3-4 team due to low numbers. Zaikowski will also be holding K-2 seminars on Saturdays. Uniforms are ok for this year. Based on an assessment of available basketballs, many were in poor shape and had to be disposed, leaving a small number of balls, and no game balls, available for the 5-6 teams. **Low moved to approve the acquisition of up to 12 basketballs. Cook seconded. All were in favor. (6-0-0).**

4. Review of lost activity fees during pandemic: Committee reviewed prior budgets to determine what activity fees were lost during the pandemic, in order to submit that figure to the Town for potential recoupment through the ARPA program. The

Committee used 2019 as the pre-pandemic base year for fees collected, which were \$3,285.00. The Committee took in \$785.00 in fees in 2020, representing a loss of \$2,500.00 (\$3,285.00 - \$785.00). The Committee took in \$1,885.00 in 2021, representing a loss of \$1,400.00 (\$3,285.00 - \$1,885.00). Total loss is \$3,900.00 (\$2,500.00 + \$1,400.00). **Low moved to petition the Monkton Selectboard to pursue a reimbursement through the ARPA program of \$3,900.00. Imes seconded. All were in favor (6-0-0).**

5. Rec Field brush removal plan update: Low offered to clear brush and sumac with his son. Crary questioned whether to hire a contractor to further grade the areas around the field and behind the fence in order to establish grass that could be mowed, further keeping brush and sumac from growing up and spreading in those areas. Crary and Hunt will look into available contractors for assessment and pricing. Any contractor hired would coordinate with Low and the timing of his work.
6. Rec Field and Morse Park: snow plowing, portalets, activity clean up/winter prep: Low will contact Town Highway department to request they plow the Morse Park parking lot. Portalets were removed on December 6. Crary to coordinate a small group to clean up fields and move soccer goals to a suitable winter location.
7. Morse Park ballfield revamp contingency: Committee will further discuss this at its next meeting.
8. Other: Low discussed potential budget requests for the upcoming year. Committee discussed submission based on 2021 actuals, but Hunt concerned about rising costs, and suggested a 10% increase. **Low moved to request a budget based on 2021 actuals, plus 10%. Cook seconded. All were in favor (6-0-0).**
9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John Zaikowski