

**Monkton Recreation Committee**  
**Monday, December 4, 2023**  
**7:00 to 8:00 PM**  
**Meeting conducted at New Town Hall**

Members Present: John Zaikowski, Tim Hunt, Paul Low, Rick Imes, Adam Crary  
Others Present: Jane Lindholm and son, Ben Raphael, Sarah Bouchard, Ray Shepard, Theresa Schwegel, Kevin Lambert, Caroline Fogg and daughter, Alison Farr, Jess Demeritt, Andrew Petersen, Emily McManamy, Tom McManamy, Cal Hopwood

1. Call to Order: Zaikowski called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.
  
2. Request by Kevin Lambert for Recreation Committee to take over basketball open gym program: McManamy outlined the request to the Recreation Committee to consider formally sponsoring a basketball open gym at Monkton Central School during the fall and spring sports seasons, two nights a week with volunteer support. Attendees expressed support for Lambert, his dedication to the community and youth basketball, and appreciation for his efforts in establishing the open gym. Demeritt spoke in support, and in support of the hardcourt proposal, which would be discussed later. Committee members discussed need for coordinator, whether there would be enough volunteers to staff, whether the MCS gym was adequate space given interest from last year, and timing with other sports programs. Committee members all expressed support for the program. The Committee needs the volunteer group to identify a coordinator, volunteer list, days/times, and utilization of Town registration form. **Hunt made a motion to sponsor the open gym program provided the volunteer group can provide a coordinator, volunteer list, dates/times, and participant information through the registration form. Lowe seconded. All were in favor (5-0-0).**
  
3. Basketball/multi-sport hardcourt ARPA Proposal: Lambert discussed hardcourt proposal, and discussed combination of ARPA funding and grants to fund the project. Location would be at the flat open area at the Rec Field, to the east of the field. Committee members discussed needing to coordinate with the Town, as it would be the Town being the receiver of any grants. Combination of funding sources and potential for asking for an increased amount also discussed. Question of whether maintenance could be taken on also discussed, and identified as something to look at. Historical efforts to establish a court also

discussed. Committee Members indicated to Lambert that they were in support of the project, and would be available to either sign on to the Town's letter of support, or submit a separate one, and to assist as the project unfolded.

4. Basketball Season Update and Equipment Purchases: Zaikowski advised there is K-2, 3/4 co-ed, 5/6 Boys and 5/6 Girls teams. New game jerseys and balls have been purchased. Discussion about makeup of other Town's teams generally. Starksboro, Bristol, Lincoln and Monkton are all fielding teams in those groups, except Lincoln 5/6 boys may fold in with other Towns. Handout of jerseys will be coordinated with each coach.
  
5. Review and approval of November meeting minutes: Lambert requested minutes be amended to state "McCarthy appeared to express concern over the open gym program." Committee members and attendees discussed the request, and their respective challenges and concerns. Discussion shifted to options to support participants and coaches. Committee members discussed the possibility of reviewing the registration form's code of conduct for updates for players and coaches. Attendees discussed need for support for coaches, potential resources to offer them, and collaborative opportunities. Committee members expressed appreciation for comments and thoughtful discussion. **Hunt made a motion to approve November minutes with the requested amendments. Lowe seconded. All were in favor. (5-0-0).**
  
6. 2024 Budget Proposal: Zaikowski presented proposed budget to other members. General discussion about activity fees being down, various maintenance expenses, and the appropriate amount to request. **Imes made a motion to accept the budget proposal with a request for \$8,500. Lowe seconded. All were in favor (5-0-0).**
  
7. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John Zaikowski