

Monkton Recreation Committee

Monday, May 6, 2024

7:00 to 8:00 PM

Meeting location: New Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge Road

Members Present: Paul Low, Sarah Bouchard, Tim Hunt, Rick Imes; Other members present: Jaime Schulte, Kristin Blanchette

1. Call to Order: Paul Low calls the meeting to order at 7:04 pm
2. Review and approval of April meeting minutes; **Tim motions to approve, Sarah seconds, all were in favor (4-0-0).**
3. ARPA project updates:

Disc Golf

Paul reviews ideas for proposed 6 disc golf sites. Proposes 4 foot mow path extending into the eastern border of soccer fields at Morse Park. Jaime Schulte expresses some possible considerations as it relates to bird nesting. Rec committee members discuss the fact that soccer and lacrosse likely bring people into the bordering tall grass areas more frequently than will be the case with disc golf, but the logistics of the game are unknown to members present; Tim suggests offering community members a chance to help map out the holes. Suggests a call out on FPF and Facebook community group. Once sites are mapped out, the Rec committee can share this information with the conservation commission.

Exercise stations at Morse Park

Rick gives updates on exercise equipment; the goal is to have everything ordered by the end of month. Tim requests we review and approve this as a group either by email this month or by the next meeting on June 3rd.

Hardcourt update

Sarah reviews updates from the project group on the proposed Hardcourt location at the Monkton Rec field. This site has been cleared with wetlands and archaeology, Act 250 is not applicable. Jaime Schulte reviews online natural resource mapping and verifies that the proposed site does not contain important wildlife corridors or nesting sites. The group is currently pricing out a full basketball court with 2 pickleball courts, a plan B and C option is being considered. The group is planning to propose a formal plan to the selectboard in the next 1-2 months once pricing becomes clearer and will review this plan at an upcoming committee meeting.. The selectboard has verbally confirmed that ARPA funds are still available up to 55K and will be reserved for this project as long as a detailed plan with alternatives is communicated and other sources of

funding are identified. Kevin Lambert has applied for the Balint grant and will be applying for others this year.

4. Little league and field maintenance

Tim shares updates on baseball fields, volunteers showed up and most goals accomplished. Paul Low shares information on the two bids for field mowing of Monkton Rec Field and Morse Park; Brian Barrows came in around 6K, Brush hogging \$600; Brad Leggett - priced per mow of area, \$1500 for brush hogging for a total of \$9,700. Paul estimates we need 13-16 mows per season. States brush hogging happens after 8/15. Paul points out that next year we may need to consider each field as a line item for mowing. **Paul moves to approve Brian Barrow's quote for mowing at \$6600. Tim seconds, motion approved (4-0-0).**

4. Kristin Blanchette shares little league season updates. Numbers update: 43 Monkton youth signed up, 199 total for the 5 towns. Kristin requests reimbursement for equipment purchases of \$485.44 with an additional purchase of \$34.96 for chalk/paint. **Paul Low moves to approve those expenses, Sarah Bouchard seconds motion. Motion approved (4-0-0).**

5. Finances

Sarah would like to see the Rec committee collect online payments with rec sign up forms. She spoke with the town treasurer who recommended talking to the selectboard as the town is not able to accept online payments. He did state that an alternative option could be for the Rec Committee to keep its own books and have its own bank account, which would allow for clearer accounting and ease of accepting payments. No members present are aware of other town committees doing this. A consideration is bank fees associated with these transactions, but this would be made up by collecting fees that are often not paid. Sarah will continue to investigate.

6. Adjourn - **Paul moves to adjourn the meeting; Tim Hunt seconds motion. All in favor (4-0-0)**