

Norwich Recreation Council – May2, 2017 7pm

Members present: Page Tompkins, Jill Kearney Niles (KN), Bill Tine, Jill Collins, Chris Clapp, Kristin Fauci, Gered Dunne, Ryan Gardner, Guest Brie Swenson

Jill Collins called meeting to order. Welcome to Bill Tine, our newest Rec. Council member.

Brie Swenson gave an update on Milton Frye recreation trails: NCC is interested in having recreational focus on Milton Frye trails. Now there is a committee to work on forestry management. They would like some Rec. Council input and help with work days. Each group will be assigned to a trail each week. Trails committee would have a meeting once a year for people who will be bringing kids onto the trail to talk about trail stewardship. Kids in summer program will need to do a walk-through at beginning of program.

Long Range Planning: Reviewed long range planning that Jill KN has in place. Jill C. suggested writing a long range plan in a “formal” format with follow through/presentation to the Town Manager and Selectboard. Current plan is more of a “wish list.” How invested are we in writing a formal long range plan? Gered suggested putting together short list, with resource needs and plans, so that resources are identified when needed in the future.

Norwich Pool area is going to be re-worked. Recreation Council would like to be involved in process of planning this new recreation area. Jill KN got a copy of the plan and shared with Rec. Council. We needed to have a specific amount of matching funds for FEMA fund. As of March 30<sup>th</sup>, \$4434.00

Clean Up Project is bid at \$13,670.00. The match that was slated to come from the pool fund is estimated to be \$2,600.00. This leaves \$1,834.00 in pool area fund.

Work is slated to be done between July 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Jill Collins suggested that just as the original Norwich Pool included the people of the town coming together to build it, it would be great to do the same now, and have several groups come together to work on this project. Suggestion was made to have our next meeting at this area, to assess what might be done there.

Norwich Recreation is in charge of:

Barrett Memorial Park

Norwich Pool, Huntley Meadow

These are areas should be included in long range plan.

Jill C. suggested developing a Needs Assessment- strengths and weaknesses, as a department, and goals. Suggested we break into subcommittees at next meeting. Part of long range planning could include talking with other departments/groups in the town to see if we are using resources efficiently.

Touch a Truck: Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to KAF for donating cookies. Jill KN will get bagels and drinks. Fire Safety van will be there. Thanks to the Police, Public Works and Fire Departments for their enthusiastic participation.

Council discussed whether we want to continue to do this event, and do we want to consider passing it along to another community group?

Labor Day Road Race: Gered will consider taking over the directorship of this year's race.

Spring Programming: Going well so far. Kids seem happy. Challenger Soccer program has started and kids are enjoying it. **Action Item:** Ryan suggested we look at numbers from last year and this year. Some kids in lower grades may have gone to the new Hanover programs. There is also a general decline in enrollment at MCS, but overall our spring #'s are up.

Chris brought up the fact that grass at Huntley needs to be cut. There is also a lot of dog poop on the fields. **Action Item:** Jill will put a notice in the listserv reminding people to clean up.

Fall Yoga: Jill has gotten a lot of great people interested in teaching. 2 more interviewing tomorrow and Thursday. Michelle George will be leaving the program, as she will be teaching at Crossroads Academy in the fall.

Jill be attending Norwich School Board meeting tomorrow to discuss school facility use and fees. **Action Item:** Jill will send out an update after the meeting. (nothing to report)

**Action Item:** Kristin asked to book the Huntley Pavilion on August 19<sup>th</sup> for ANTS "Tour of Norwich Trail run. Jill KN has reserved it from 8am - 1pm for the event. They are also looking for some helpers for the May 20<sup>th</sup> run.

New Business: **Action Item:** Gered suggested we have a meeting to learn how to use the bread oven.

Jill suggested we meet in July at the river launch site to discuss how it could be upgraded, used.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm **at Norwich Pool Site.**