

Norwich Recreation Council Meeting January 2, 2018

Present: Jill K-N, Chris Clapp, Kristin Fauci, Jill Collins, Gered Dunne, Ryan Gardner, Bill Tine, Page Tompkins, Rob Johnson, Amy Tuller

*Minutes from last meeting were reviewed and approved

*Jill K-N reviewed the December Recreation Report

*Reviewed New York Times article and discussed how our mission seems to have been supported, as noted in the article.

*Reports received from Working Groups:

*Kristin reviewed notes from Communications group- discussed doing another parent survey for winter sports. Committee also discussed changing format of the brochure and e-mails, postings, and how programs are marketed. **Want to get input from parents about what communication works the best.**

*Parks and Trails Group: Discussed needed signage for trails. Budgets for fixed and projected maintenance expenses. The new snowmobile is not working this year. Has needed much maintenance. Gered suggested selling the snowmobile and looking into a better option. Perhaps the 4 wheeler or "Gator" would be an option for all seasons.

Should have designated signs that tell people that a certain trail is groomed for skiing, and they shouldn't walk on it.

Need maintenance budget for pump track, groomer, snowmobile.

Next natural progression for trails would be an easy trail at bottom of Union Village Road, another trail at Ballard, with bridge. Need to discuss for next budget session.

Discussed other options for trails to explore developing.

Reviewed difficulties of dogs at Huntley- owners not picking up after dogs and not controlling their dogs. Discussed possible ways to police and improve this situation. May need to ask police to start fining owners who do not follow the laws.

*Long Range Planning Group: Bill reported on discussions- group reviewed the current long range plan and additions that have been added. Grantham Indoor facility has sold. Jill will talk with the Hanover Improvement Society about whether their plans to build a second rink could include building a local indoor sports facility. Need to continue to work on building a bigger picture, of several years out, and including ideas on the town voting ballot for funding. Bill volunteered to organize another meeting of this sub-group.

Discussion ensued about where to go from here with Working Groups to continue the progress. Ryan suggested each group come up with 2 deliverables by June, to bring back to the group in September, in order to start budgeting process.

*Programs Group: Discussed programs offered in the past that got dropped and what programs they thought should be included. General feeling is that program

offerings are pretty good now. Plan- try to develop a little more for parents, kids, and coaches.

- Jill K-N discussed Pre-K Outdoor Adventures program. There has been ongoing interest in this age group. Would start in March and would include outdoor activities such as sledding, skating on the Green, scavenger hunt, story walk, Huntley Meadow loops- walk/snowshoe/ski/pull on sleds, etc. Maybe even biking by the end. Would be 6-7 weeks long. Friday mornings would be good, as Norwich Nursery School is not in session then. **Kristin will present this idea to the preschool parents to get feedback.** Also need to think of person to run this program.

*Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 13th, which is a week later than usual. Meeting will be at 7pm in the Tracy Hall conference room.

Groups should come to the February meeting with more defined goals and timelines.

Skating Party is scheduled for January 19th. Jill C has already discussed with PTO and sent out Google doc for food setup. Helmets will be required, as is the school rule, but this will not be policed. **Kristin will ask Chris Grey at Norwich Farms if he would provide hot chocolate dispenser.**

Page, Rob J, Bill's wife, Michelle will help with setup at 2:30 on the 19th.

It would be great to have one person help from 3:30-5 with supervising and helping serve hot chocolate.