

Norwich Rec Council

Minutes Tuesday, January 5th, 2021 – 7pm

Attendees: David Bartlett, Sarah Martin, Brie Swenson, Ryan Gardner, Rob ‘Garrincha’ Johnson, Kristin Pontecorvo, Cathy Girard, Bill Tine, Steve Gaughan.

December 2020 minutes were approved.

Rink & Nordic grooming update from Brie: This week should be the right weather to reflood the rink. Target the end of the week for skating. MCS will get priority during school hours. All others are ‘at own risk’ based on VT guidance. Grooming started Jan 4th at Huntley. Many thanks to the 5-6 volunteers taking care of this. Ford Sayre will use groomed trails once a week on Tuesdays. They will pay some fees and have offered to help with certain upkeep. We have contracted with a professional groomer at a reduced rate for trails at Brookmead over to Parcel 5.

Rec has opened a segregated account that people can both donate to and pledge to for directed donations for outdoor recreation.

Nina Sablan is a new member of the Rec Council (youth advisory member) pending her approval by the selectboard. Welcome! The Council moved to approve the addition of a youth advisory member spot to be filled at the council’s discretion. Approved unanimously.

Brie updated the group on several new collaborations: Rec and Norwich Historical Society and Rec and the Trails Committees. Sara Rooker would like to work on an initiative between NHS and Rec to raise funds for NHS. No cost to Rec. Details to follow. Steve Flanders would like to work with the Rec Council to revive the Around Norwich Trail Series. Kristin will follow up with Steve.

Winter sports guidance (SAU and Tracy Hall facility updates): No definitive answer yet from MCS on use of facilities. For now we will stick to outdoor skills and drills type sessions. Ford Sayre has been granted an allowance for kids to train at the Skiway under very strict guidelines. Lightning update: They are still not an approved party so can’t book any fields until after May 2021.

Budget review with Select Board member recommendations: No major changes.

Online programs: Brie indicates they are going very well. Norwich Nailed It was very popular. 57 people participates each week. KABC, Norwich Creamery, and Pete and Jerry’s Eggs all contributed. Brie has now convinced Cabot to participate in future weeks with Meatless Mondays. Remote and homeschooled families have found this to be a great way to connect to the community.

Brie reminded the group that XC skis and snowshoes are available to borrow.

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm