

 TOWN OF NEWTON, NH

 *Recreation Commission*

*2 Town Hall Road*

*Newton, NH 03858*

Date: January 4, 2021

Call to Order - 7:00 pm – this Meeting was a Zoom Call.

 Chairman Rick Faulconer - As Chairman of the Recreation Commission for the Town of Newton NH, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to observe or listen contemporaneously to this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the Governor’s Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are: Utilizing Zoom Conference Call for this electronic meeting. All members of the Commission have the ability to communicate during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through accessing the Meeting ID number – 811 1079 0118. Or using the phone number provided here: 646-5588656. We previously gave the notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

In attendance – Chairman Rick Faulconer, Selectman Matthew Burrill, Peggy Connors, Vanessa Burrill, William Harding, Patricia Masterson (recording minutes), Town Administrator Nancy Wrigley, Derrick Fresco (Guest), and Paul Murray (Guest).

Approval of the Minutes

**Selectman Burrill made a Motion to approve the Minutes of December 7, 2020, and December 10, 2020. Mr. Harding seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.** **(Ms. Connors – aye; Chairman Faulconer – aye; Selectman Burrill – aye; Mr. Harding - aye)**

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Skateboard Park

Paul Murray attended the meeting to detail his plans for a reconstructed skateboard park at Greenie Park. He has spoken to two skateboard park companies to obtain quotes for refurbishing the skateboard area. The quotes are based on the square footage, revamping the existing structures and building up new structures as well as adding a border between the skateboard area and the playground. Some of the skateboard structures are cracking and some need to be rebuilt. Estimates from the companies are approximately $200,000. Mr. Murray said there are local contractors who are interested in the project.

Mr. Murray would like to raise the funds through a Town Warrant Article, grants, and donations.

Selectman Burrill explained that the Recreation Commission is tasked with managing the skateboard park, and it is a worthwhile endeavor, but it will be difficult to get approval from the Town for the required amount of money. He suggested that a Warrant Article be drafted for $10,000 to establish a revolving fund. This would be the first step of the project. Mr. Murray will discuss the Warrant Article with Ms. Wrigley, who will check with the New Hampshire Department of Revenue to determine suggested language for the Warrant Article.

Mr. Murray will need to collect 25 signatures for the request to be placed as a Town Warrant Article.

Ms. Masterson will send Mr. Murray contact information for Friends of the Newton Recreation Commission who raised money to build the playground at Greenie Park.

Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Fresco, who is working on his Eagle Scout project, reported that he met with Road Agent Mike Pivero to discuss plans for building a patio with two picnic tables. Originally, he considered building the patio at the Greenie Park, but he and Mr. Pivero concluded that there was more space and more of a need for the project at the Town Beach. The dimensions of the patio will be 12 x 20 feet and will fit to the left of the lifeguard shed in a shaded area that has good visibility to the water.

Mr. Fresco will present his plans at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

2021 Tentative Event Dates

The Commission reviewed tentative plans for events for the coming year. Events will be determined on a case-by-case basis adhering to Covid restrictions.

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*2021 Tentative Events*

May 15 – Town-wide Yard Sale

May 31 – Memorial Day

August 5 or 12 – Senior Trip

September 11 - Olde Home Day

October 9 – Town-wide Yard Sale

October 30 – Trunk or Treat

December 4 – Road Race

Recreation Commission Meeting Dates

The Recreation Commission meets the first and third Mondays of the month, but until our events schedule is in full swing, we have scaled back. Meetings for 2021 are (until further determination):

February 1 August 2, 16

March 1 September 20

April 5, 19 October 4, 18

May 3, 17 November 1, 15

June 7, 21

July 5, 19

Essay Contest

Ms. Connors suggested holding an essay contest in the winter for teens in Junior High and High School. The Recreation Commission could judge and award prizes. Topics could be: what does

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Memorial Day mean to you; what is best about living in Newton. Selectmen could be the judges, and we could award gift cards to the winners. Should we have a coloring contest for grades 3 to 5? Ms. Connors will present ideas at the February meeting.

Adjournment

**Selectman Burrill made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Harding seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.** **(Ms. Connors – aye; Chairman Faulconer – aye; Selectman Burrill – aye; Mr. Harding - aye)**

 Next Meeting

February 1, 2021 is the next meeting of the Recreation Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Masterson, Secretary, Recreation Commission

*Posted on 2/2/2021 Newton Town Hall and Official Town website www.newton-nh.gov.*