

TOWN OF THOMPSON Recreation Commission 815 Riverside Drive P.O. Box 899 North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 Phone: 860-923-9440 E-MAIL: recreationdirector@thompsonct.org www.thompsonrec.org

## Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes March 22, 2023 6:30pm via Zoom

## View the Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zQhSe3eIbILPc2aNR2BDgRPMVFFuNM8TeMwFsiBSEzj\_ve2bwhtjV0ZcVv4CKIjB.7tipAbd3N7hI iAPB

Passcode: @T67S.#@

- 1. Call to order/Record -The meeting was called to order by B. Lievense (Recreation Director) at 6:31 pm and the recording was started.
- 2. Roll Call -Brian Lievense (Recreation Director), Renee Waldron (Chair), Cynthia Antos, Dave Clark, Ashley Lewis, Wayne Barber

Absent: Robbie L'Heureux, Donna Poitras

Community Members: Heather Gauthier (Recording Secretary), Debra Spinelli (Tourtellotte High School); John Peters (NECONN Soccer), Tod Smith (NECONN Soccer), Erick Thorstenson (Thompson Little League), Frank Houle (Jack Beeny Softball league).

3. Minutes Review

February 22, meeting minutes were reviewed (at time stamp 27:20).

- C. Antos provided (2) corrections.
- Page 1, Special events, 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet. Typographical error "venders" should be spelled "vendors".
- Page 2, #9 Other comments, 1<sup>st</sup> bullet. Typographical error "Livense" should be "Lievense",
  \*\*D. Clark made a motion to accept the minutes with the (2) corrections; seconded by D. Poitras. Motion passed 5-0-0
- 4. Financial Reports (given by Director B. Lievense)
  - A. General Fund Budget Report Expended about 72% of the budget, seems to be on track for the fiscal year.
  - B. Fund Balance Balance is \$54,017. There will be a deposit (\$6,000) going out for the sealcoating of the basketball/pickleball court.
  - C. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report Balance is \$18,624.63. This should increase when summer camp registrations open up.
- 5. New Business (Screenshare by B. Lievense)
  - 1. Field Lighting at Riverside Park
    - The lighting was evaluated by the Department of Public Works director and electrician evaluated the current flood lights. The lights were deemed unsafe and removed. The electrician estimated (informal) about \$70,000 to replace the lights at the softball/soccer field in Riverside Park. Discussion from NECONN, Jack Benny Softball, Thompson School, Little League, and recreation representatives on the use of the field at timestamp 04:20.
      - B. Lievense will draft a letter to the selectman in support of replacing the lights.
    - 2. Porch Fest
      - Potential new program to be held at Thompson Common. There are several porches on the common to include private residences, Historical Society, and the Congregational Church. A subcommittee should be formed to work out the details of this program.
- 6. Director's Report (given by B. Lievense)
  - A. Housekeeping/Commission Changes. Wayne Barber and Robbie L'Heureux will not be renewing their commission seats which will leave two (2) vacancies. Dave Clark has been re-appointed. Heather Gauthier is resigning as recording secretary; she will remain working until a replacement is found. Each term is three (3) years.
  - B. Purely Recreation There are 18 morning and 39 afternoon registrations.
  - C. Special Events
  - Easter Egg Hunt. Will be held April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Thompson Common. The kids will arrive at 1pm, recreation staff will arrive about 11am. The Easter Bunny will be visiting. A social post will be sent out for cleaning of the site prior to the event.
  - Maker Fair. May 6<sup>th</sup>, the advertising for the event is going well. There are 69 vendors already registered; the goal is to have 75 vendors.

## REC Meeting 03/22/2023

- Summer Concert Series. All the concerts are booked for June 24<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup>, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-7:30pm.
  The Main Street Celato ice cream will be there for each concert. There will be a food truck/option at each concert.
- Touch-a-truck. Scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be a partnership with the Thompson Library to promote Recreation events.
- Movies in the Park. There are high costs and licensing requirements. This event idea has been tabled.
- Town Wide Yard Sale. Scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be spaces for rent available at Thompson Common. This is in partnership with Thompson Together; all proceeds will be split.
- (off agenda) Community Day. Scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- (off agenda) April 1<sup>st</sup> Town-wide trash pickup. Bags are available at the recreation office. The fall competitive trash cleanup winner was Project Graduation; second place was Putnam Rotary Club. The presentation of the novelty check will be April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- D. Adult Programs
- Yoga. The current session runs through April 12<sup>th</sup> and has 9 registered.
- Tai Chi. New session begins on April 11<sup>th</sup>. There are 11-12 registrations.
- Adult Art Class. The next class will be Friday April 11th at Drafters and has 11 registrations.
- Bus Trips. Trips coming up are Newport Playhouse next week and "Daffodil Days" Blithewold Mansion on March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Community Art Show. Begins April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Thompson Library.
- Line Dancing. There is a new instructor starting classes on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- D. Senior Programs
- Senior Craft. Ongoing monthly with about 10-12 crafters.
- Senior Discussion/Lecture. Next discussion on April 13<sup>th</sup> is led by TMHS Alumni. The discussion will be on Mrs. Tourtellotte.
- Senior Luau. Scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> featuring the band "The Coconuts".
- E. Youth Programs
- Art Club/Lego Club. Enrichment programs are full.
- "Medieval Feast". A family event scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Mini Soccer. Scheduled to begin April 16<sup>th</sup> for ages 3 & 4. There are 20 registrations.
- Camps. All camps and clinics registrations are opening this Friday. Epic Soccer camp will be held for 2 weeks at Riverside Park. Tourtellotte Basketball camp will be July 10<sup>th</sup>-July 14<sup>th</sup>. There is a suggestion to partnership with the little league to do a baseball/softball camp.

## 8. Old Business.

- 1. Pickleball/Basketball Court Update.
  - Mike Sealcoating will begin their work the end of April or beginning of May; weather dependent. The goal is to have the courts ready for summer. There is a pickleball instructor who lives in Thompson who is available for lessons.
- 9. Other comments from the commission.
  - C. Antos. Following up on two (2) items. 1. Playground Inspections. (B. Lievense) Joe from Thompson DPW is planning to put wood chips and painting at the parks. Joe is also planning on taking care of the root. There is a checklist of inspections that was reviewed with the DPW. 2. Soccer Fundraising. (B. Lievense) NECONN does not do any fundraising, costs are covered by the registration fees.
- 10. Correspondence. None received.
- 11. Citizen's Comments. No Comments.
- 12. Announcements. No announcements.
- 12. Next Meeting: Next meeting Wednesday, April 26, 2023 @ 6:30 PM by zoom.
- 13. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted 05/06/2023 Heather Gauthier Recording Secretary

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the Recreation Commission. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.*