



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Recreation Commission

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Recreation Commission Special Meeting Minutes January 26, 2022 6:30pm via Zoom

View the Zoom Recording

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/XujberOWrUpym3o0oqGcMiQ2GtUcsxEqI57XDMnNhPNesbpzuM0y5FakdWb6qxN7.MDJ7hET7tmXbiOUJ>

Passcode: Fwsg1v@!

1. Call to order/Record -The meeting was called to order by B. Lievense (Recreation Director) at 6:38pm.
2. Roll Call -Brian Lievense (Recreation Director), Renee Waldron (Interim Chair), Cynthia Antos, Wayne Barber, Donna Poitras, Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois (Recording Secretary)
Absent: Diane Keefe, Robbie L'Heureux, Thomas Jourdan
3. Minutes Review - Minutes from December 8th, 2021 Special Meeting were reviewed; (2) corrections noted; (1) under Directors report "Christmas Light Concert" should be "Christmas Light Contest" and (1) under 7. Old Business C. Capital Projects "APRA" should be "ARPA"; ****C. Antos to accept the minutes with the two corrections previously listed; seconded by W. Barber. Motion passed unanimously.** Minutes from October 27th, 2021 were reviewed with one correction as Renee Waldron was present. ****R. Waldron to accept the minutes with the correction of R. Waldron being present; seconded by W. Barber. Motion passed unanimously.**
4. Financial Reports (given by Director B. Lievense)
 - A. General Fund Budget Report - Relatively on track. Recreation director salary will be overbudget due to salary increase in November 2021; should track around \$56,000-\$57,000. There will be a decrease in hours for the recreation assistance.
 - B. Fund Balance - Balance is still at \$49,394. This is unchanged from the previous report.
 - C. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report - Current balance is \$56,437.12. OEC grants have been received. ****R. Waldron** - for the 950 account each program is in balance as far as the programs are concerned.
5. Director's Report (given by B. Lievense)
 - A. Purely Recreation - Participation has been steady, November had 27 am and 25 pm; December had 21 am and 25 pm and January has 21 am and 27 pm participants. We did have a drop in am registrations for December and January as the elementary school is offering morning care to help with the bus situation. ~C. Antos - Is the school going to continue offering this or just for a couple of months? ~~B. Lievense - I don't think this is permanent, just to get through the lack of staffing with the bus company. I do not know when it will end.
 - B. Special Events
 - Christmas Light Contest - We had 28 homes registered. We awarded two \$100 gift certificates from Anya (137 Church Street and 29 Whittemore Road). ****C. Antos** - I did not receive an email regarding the entries. We should send a "thank you" to Anya. ****B. Lievense** - I will send them a thank you card. ****R. Waldron** - Something that would be more valuable to them, we should publicly thank them on social media.
 - Bonfire. Was moved to February 19th, due to the current increase in COVID cases. Wood pallets were provided by UniCorr, Judi Jones will be performing and WINY will provide music. This is a free event, please spread the word.

C. Adult Program

- Yoga. Virtual is ongoing; the current session is ending this week. A new session is starting February 19th. In-person yoga will begin a new session on February 16th.
- Bus Tours – (8) Tours have been scheduled with Fox Tours for 2022. The first is a Red Sox baseball game against Yankees at Yankee Stadium on April 9th and then Newport Playhouse & Cabaret (55+) on May 4th. Other trips have been posted online; most interest is a Portland ME day trip which has a boat tour, show and lunch.

D. Senior Programs

- Senior Strength and Balance. Continuing every Tuesday & Thursday morning.
- Senior Line Dance. New session started January 12th on Wednesday's.
- Senior Craft. Every Tuesdays. Have about 10-12 seniors every month for the class.
- Senior Discussion/Lecture. Next lecture February 7th about probate court.
- Senior New Year's Party. Moved to a Valentine's Day Party due to the rise in COVID cases. Party will be held on February 11th.

E. Youth Programs

- Purely Recreation. Still taking registration for February.
- Youth Basketball. On-going and ends on March 5th. We had 105 total registrations. We will be hosting a tournament with Putnam, Pomfret, Killingly, and Woodstock for the Senior boys and NBA boys in the first week of March. **R. Waldron – If you need any help with books or clocks, I could do some games.
- Cupid's Workshop. Coming up on Valentine's Day, February 14th
- Father/Daughter Dance. Will be held at the library on February 11th. Capacity is limited to 65 participants due to COVID. All participants will have to wear masks and spread out.
- Lego Club. Will be afterschool as an enrichment program, to start February 3rd.
- Easter Egg Hunt.

6. New Business (given by Director B. Lievense)

A. New Recreation Programs

- Litter League. Competitive trash pick-up program will launch 4/22/2022. This will be in partnership with Thompson Together and will begin at the tail end of their spring clean up in April. This is the 20th Anniversary of Thompson Together clean up.
- Expanded Airline Trail Camp. Hosted by last green valley, for middle school (6th-8th grade) this year's camp will be a 4-week camp.
- Epic Soccer Clinic. Will be a week in June and a week in August. There will be coaches from New England Revolution Academy and UCONN Men's Soccer. Camps dates are the week of 6/27/2022 and 8/1/2022.
- Tourtellotte Basketball Camp. Coach Cushing will be running this July 5th-July 8th.
- Adventure Camp. Returns July 11th through August 19th, This year we would like to be hybrid between having the kids at the school and having the kids 1-2 days a week at Quaddick State Park. Enrollment was low last year with the kids at the school; In the prime of the program there were 70-80 kids per week and last year there was about 30 kids.
**C. Antos - What is happening with the bus issue? **B. Lievense - If camp is at Quaddick we would need to have a bus onsite all day in case of evacuation and the cost is just prohibitive.
**C. Antos - Has it been approved for us to use Quaddick this year? **B. Lievense - It hasn't yet. Last year the issue was the bathrooms were not opened due to COVID. B. Lievense is trying to reach out to the organization that runs Quaddick to see what their summer plans are.
**C. Antos - Is the program worth running for 30 kids? **B. Lievense - It provides a service that the parents need during the summer. It is not nearly as profitable with the lower numbers. I think parents will be looking for summer camp options.

B. Fiscal 2022/2023 Budget Proposal (B. Lievense shared excel sheet on zoom)

- Recreation Director. Salary is over the budget for 2021-2022. This figure included the salary increase.
- Recreation Aide. Hours were dropped to (16) per week. Some of this is paid through the OEC funds. Would like to increase these hours back to (18). B. Lievense would like to propose to the Selectman's Committee, the recreation Aide position be brought to (18) hours under the 5301 budget and add (17) hours to be paid under the 950 revolving fund account. This will bring her to full time and would open her up to town benefits which are not paid from the recreation budget.
- Advertising. \$250 increase. Mostly for print advertising, B. Lievense would like to put together a mailer to show all the offerings like a spring/summer and fall/winter brochure mailed to Thompson residents.
- **C. Antos - Renee, Do they do the Selectmen's newsletter anymore? **R. Waldron - Yes, the next one will be out in a week or so. Each department only has a page or so.**
- **B. Lievense - There is not enough room to highlight each recreation program.**
- Summer Concerts. Budgeted \$500 for each concert which is the same as last year.
- Senior Citizens. Increase of \$400. There is a lot of senior citizen programs right now, most of which are free or very little charge (\$5).
- Community Day. Increase of \$50, raise budget to \$1,000. Recreation partners with Thompson Together. Thompson Together is budgeting \$1,000 and we as the recreation department would like to match the \$1,000 budget.
- Recreation Supplies. Increase of \$50 due to rising costs for supplies.
- Office Supplies. Increase of \$50 due to rising costs for supplies.
- Registration Software. Increase of \$2,000 to update the software. My Rec Software is billed annually based on revenue. If you have \$0-\$100,000 in revenue you are billed \$2,995 in software fees (which is where recreation currently is); \$100,000-\$250,000 billed for \$4,000; over \$250,000 billed for \$4,500. Prior to COVID recreation was in the over \$200,000 in total revenue over the calendar year.
- **R. Waldron - Is this something that will qualify to be paid under the OEC funds? We should keep it in the budget but see if it qualifies. **B. Lievense - I think it will qualify.**
- Total increase is \$9,783 (about 11%).
- **C. Antos - On the grants, have they been submitted? **B. Lievense - I have received soccer and seniors so far. I have not received Little League or Project Graduation for fiscal year 2023. **C. Antos - Will we be able to see the applications? **B. Lievense - They will be included in the next meeting. **R. Waldron - Previously, it was an actual review to see their numbers, participants, balance sheets, etc so the committee to see if changes needed to be made in the budget. When the check went out in June, a letter would accompany the checks that reminded the grant committee to have the application back in by December 31st. When you get the applications in, you can scan and email them in a group email so that you don't have to wait until the next meeting.**
- **C. Antos made a motion to pass the budget of \$97,750 as recommended by the recreation direction onto the Board of Selectman for their approval. Motion was seconded by D. Poitras. Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Old Business.

A. Capital Projects

- Riverside Basketball Courts. We received an estimate from Premier Sealcoating for \$8,000-\$10,000 to patch, resurface and paint the existing basketball court. Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner, is looking at another grant possibly from AARP (improving life for seniors, over 50, and municipalities). Would like to add (3) pickleball courts along with the basketball upgrade. Pickleball has portable nets that

can be stored at that Riverside Park. There are no public courts in the vicinity for Pickleball. B. Lievense thinks the grant is due March 25th.

8. Other comments from the commission.

- C. Antos. Commission to expire 04/15/2022. She would like to apply again.
- R. Waldron. Diane Keefe moved which leaves us with (3) vacancies. Al Lafleur is looking for some extra racing bibs, B. Lievense will talk with Al about joining the commission when he comes in. We should consider moving to (7) members instead of (9).

****C. Antos made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectman that the recreation commission be reduced to have (7) members. Motion was seconded by D. Poitras. Motion passed unanimously.**

9. Correspondence. No Correspondence.

10. Citizen's Comments. No Comments presented

11. Announcements. None

12. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 @ 6:30 PM by zoom.

13. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm by C. Antos.

Respectfully Submitted 1/30/2022

Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois

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.