



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 Special Meeting Minutes December 8, 2021 6:30pm via Zoom

View the Zoom Recording

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ds4Faa0DqJGe41DbQ1BF0qa5v9gR2AUGzHjpqzt6a5geYTkadUB36Qq5HRhJEAcM.UIGgrBodDoJO6Lne>

Passcode: LeNPS#r8

1. Call to order/Record –The meeting was called to order by Recreation Commission Vice-Chairperson, C. Antos, at 6:33pm. This will be as a “conversation only” as not enough members are present for a quorum at this time.
2. Roll Call –Brian Lievense (Recreation Director), Cynthia Antos, Wayne Barber, Donna Poitras, Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois (Recording Secretary)
Absent: Diane Keefe, Robbie L’Heureux, Thomas Jourdan, Renee Waldron
3. Minutes Review – Minutes from October 10/27/2021 were reviewed; One minor correction to roll call, Renee Waldron was present.
4. Financial Reports (given by Director B. Lievense)
 - A. General Fund Budget Report – Balance has about 42% usage about halfway through fiscal year.
 - B. Fund Balance – Balance is still at \$49,394. No change since the last meeting. Last meeting commission members voted to allocate \$3,000 for repairs to the Riverside Park Gazebo; no payment has been made.
 - C. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report – Current balance is \$59,256.75. Final OEC payment was deposited into the account; entire grant has been received. This money has been allocated for purely recreation salaries, training, things related to purely recreation through 2023.
5. Director’s Report (given by B. Lievense)
 - A. Purely Recreation – November had 27 am and 25 after-school participants. December dipped a little with 18 am and 24 after-school participants. Possible reasons are due to December being a short month and/or families on vacation and not needing care. Purely Recreation is closed this week due to COVID.
~C. Antos – Is this consistent with last year? ~B. Lievense – I can look back and see the historical status.
 - B. Special Events
 - Turkey Trot. We had 173 runners and 45 walkers. 50/25/25 split with TEEG, Trails and Recreation Commission. 2022 goal is to increase participation. Corporate sponsorships total \$15,673 (\$11,050 sponsorships/\$4,623 registrations & donations), Turkey Trot record! These are not final numbers as some late registrations are still coming in.
 - Christmas Light Concert – Registrations will go through December 10th; (2) categories “traditional” (white lights) and “imaginative” (inflatables). Anya has provided (2) first place prizes one for each category. As of 12/8/2021 there

were 28 homes registered. This is being listed in the shoppers' guide and hoping to have maps with registered homes available next week. Recreation Commission members will be voting from December 14-20th.

~W. Barber - Heavily involved with judging from last year. This was fun driving around with my son. ~C. Antos - Wayne did a great job marking

down everything for the commission members to drive around and judge.

- Bonfire on January 15th. Wood has been donated. We have Judi Jones as a performer and are looking for 1-2 more performers.

~W. Barber - Jedi plays at local pubs and possibly does do Christmas songs. I will forward his contact information. A lot of people would come to listen to his music.

C. Adult Program

- Yoga. Virtual meets on Saturday's. In-person meets on Wednesday's.
- Bus Tours - (8) tours have been scheduled with Fox Tours for 2022. The first is a Red Sox baseball game against Yankees on April 9th and then Newport Playhouse & Cabaret (55+) on May 4th.

D. Senior Programs

- Senior Strength and Balance. Every Tuesday & Thursday morning begins 12/2.
- Senior Line Dance. Every Wednesday began 11/10 and runs through 1/5/22.
- Senior Craft. Monthly on Tuesdays. Next class this Tuesday 12/14.
- Senior Discussion/Lecture. Next lecture on 12/13; discussion will be on Lockwood Mansion Holiday Traditions. Both discussions in November were well received.
- Senior New Year's Party. January 3rd at the Library directly after the senior lunch.

E. Youth Programs

- Purely Recreation. Ongoing, enrolling for January.
- Youth Basketball. Began practice on November 30th and runs through mid-February. Total registrations 105 participations (28 Rookie registrations, 4 Junior Teams, 4 Senior Boys teams, 2 NBA Boys teams, 1 Senior Girls team).
- Santa Workshop. Two programs were scheduled, one was cancelled due to COVID and the next one will be Tuesday 12/14.
- Letters to Santa. Collecting letters at town hall; letters will be returned on 12/16. VFW ladies is volunteering to get all the letters returned to kids.

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

- A. Santa's Workshop. Kids will make 2 crafts/gifts to bring home. Two programs have been combined into one on Tuesday 12/14.

- B. Kids Night Out. Tuesday 12/17 starting at 5pm. Parents can drop off kids; kids will do a craft and pizza will be served.

- C. Father Daughter Dance. Scheduling for February 11th at the Thompson Library.

- D. Litter League. Competitive trash pick-up for community organizations in designated areas around town. Program will launch 4/22/2022.

~C. Antos. Norma O'Leary heads up the yearly clean-up and Bogey's (Thompson Speedway) ice cream stand has donated coupons to be given out for every bag of trash picked up.

- E. Expanded Airline Trail Camp. Headed by last green valley, for middle school (6th-8th grade) the 2021 camp was run for 2 weeks; we are working to do a 4-week camp. Would like to combine this with other towns.

- F. EPIC Soccer Clinic. Secured coaches from New England Revolution Academy and UCONN Men's soccer, to run a clinic for kids 5-14. Camps dates are the week of 6/27/2022 and 8/1/2022.

7. Old Business.

- A. Park Donation/Memorial Policy. Approved by Board of Selectmen with minor adjustments that the final approval is to be given by Board of Selectmen. Process will be that request is made by the citizen, recreation commission votes/approves the request, and the approved request is brought to the Board of Selectmen for final approval.
- B. Riverside Park Gazebo Maintenance. Last meeting there was \$3,000 approved to have some work completed. Tyra Penn-Gesek is working on ARPA grant to get the whole park renovated.
- C. 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 has included this with the APRA grant to renovate Riverside Park.

8. Other comments from the commission.

C. Antos. Commission is 3-year span, beginning of the year we submit those members who are up for reappointment by 4/15. I think my term is expiring. (H. Gauthier-Bourgeois) The term list I have does not show anyone expiring in 2022. Cynthia, I show your term expiring 2024. (W. Barber) When does my term expire? (H. Gauthier-Bourgeois) Wayne you expire in 2023.

9. Correspondence.

Steve Gerlin, Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Encourage trot fisherman to catch and release. Goal is to put up signs at trot fishing spots. B. Lievense will share the letter with Board of Selectmen. (W. Barber) Catch and release program will help increase the stock of trot in Thompson. (C. Antos) We should invite Steve to come to a meeting so we can better understand the program.

10. Citizen's Comments. No Comments presented

11. Announcements. None

12. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 @ 6:30 PM by zoom. Commission members agree to meet via Zoom in January.

13. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm by C. Antos.

Respectfully Submitted 12/12/2021

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.