



# TOWN OF THOMPSON

Recreation Commission

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## Recreation Commission Special Meeting Minutes March 10, 2022 6:30pm via Zoom

### View the Zoom Recording

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/9luBplap\\_QHdLeMuhHn6K\\_fnY-nVNWzS46xq0J4p74b\\_TqDeJnHInE4uW3Fa77ow.wMkiuPPg7I9evwdb](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/9luBplap_QHdLeMuhHn6K_fnY-nVNWzS46xq0J4p74b_TqDeJnHInE4uW3Fa77ow.wMkiuPPg7I9evwdb)

**Passcode: r%DLS%J7**

1. Call to order/Record -The meeting was called to order by B. Lievense (Recreation Director) at 6:34pm.
2. Roll Call -Brian Lievense (Recreation Director), Renee Waldron (Chair), Cynthia Antos, Donna Poitras, Wayne Barber, Thomas Jourdan, T. Penn-Gesek (Director of Planning & Development); Heather Gauthier (Recording Secretary)  
Absent: Renee Waldron (Chair), Diane Keefe, Robbie L'Heureux,
3. Appropriation of funds for AARP Grant
  - Photos of the current basketball court were shared by B. Lievense. The current court is cracked, holding water, and unusable. The current court is 57'x104' which is a bit short for a standard basketball court.
  - The goal is to update the basketball court (repave, paint) and include (3) pickleball courts. Adding the pickleball courts would allow the town to apply for the AARP grant (grant geared towards people over 50 years old). The new court would have a 62'x96' play area.
  - Quotes:
    1. Superior Paving (Thompson, CT) \$9,900 - paving
    2. Premier Sealcoating (Oxford, MA) \$10,000 - Sealcoating & Line painting
    3. Fencing Proposal TBD, estimated \$3-4,000
    4. Equipment TBD, estimated \$2,000 [(2) new backboards \$550/each/(3) portable pickleball nets \$300/each]
    5. Total Project Estimated Costs: \$25,000
  - AARP grant awards average is about \$11,000 average; 60% of the grants given are \$15,000 or less. There is money leveraged for basketball court repairs in ARPA funds that are being used in another grant. T. Penn-Gesek suggests that the recreation commission should not commit more than 50% of the \$25,000 (about \$15,000) to be leveraged for the grant. A neighborhood-wide grant was submitted to DECD; in that grant, there was a line item for \$10,000 for the pickleball court. That DECD grant award announcement comes out in late March/early April.
  - These would be the only outside courts in the area that are free to the public. The Putnam Y has an indoor facility but there is a membership fee for the facility. (T. Penn-Gesek).

- Questions:

1. (W. Barber) The money that we are approving to be used as a match in the grant if the grant falls through do we need to approve more? (T. Penn-Gesek) If the grants are unsuccessful there is nothing left to leverage, the leveraged money would still be in the commissions' account. The commission would need to decide if the project would move forward without supplemental funding. (R. Waldron) These may not be the best quote numbers we can get as we rushed to get quotes for the grant. We can continue to get quotes for the work and might receive lower bids.
2. (W. Barber) Can we use the town crew to do the work? (T. Penn-Gesek) You would not get DPW to do a recreation project as they are undermanned and have no acting director. (R. Waldron) DPW has scheduled their paving activities for the summer already.
3. (W. Barber) The pickleball courts have nets, will those portable nets be stored in the clubhouse and how will citizens get the nets? (B. Lievense) The nets would be in the clubhouse. The plan is to create a schedule and recruit a coordinator to provide access to the nets.

- **Motion made by R. Waldron that we allocate up to \$5,000 (from the fund balance) as a match to the AARP grant for redoing the basketball court with an overlay of the pickleball courts. The motion was seconded by C. Antos. Motion voted on and passed unanimously.**

4. Other comments from the commission.

- R. Waldron, the basketball court repairs are long overdue.

5. Announcements: Regular Meeting Wednesday, March 23, 2022 @ 6:30 PM by zoom.

6. Adjourn. **The meeting was adjourned at 6:51pm.**

Respectfully Submitted 3/16/2022

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.*