



**TOWN OF  
THOMPSON**  
Recreation Commission

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**Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 22, 2021 6:30pm**

**Zoom**

1. **Call to order/Record** - The meeting was called to order by Cynthia Antos, at 6:38pm. This will be as a “conversation only” as not enough members are present for a quorum at this time.
2. **Roll Call** - Brian Lievens (Recreation Director), Cynthia Antos, Wayne Barber, Thomas Jourdan (late), Diane Keefe, Donna Poitras, Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois (Recording Secretary)  
Absent: Robbie L’Heureux; Renee Waldron
3. **Minutes Review:** Minutes from 08/25/2021 were reviewed. One minor correction to #8 Halloween Light Show notes “selling tickets”; Recreation does not sell tickets, attendee are being asked to reserve seats via tickets. No motion to approve minutes as not enough members for quorum.
4. **Financial Reports (given by Director B. Lievens)**
  - A. **General Fund Budget Report** - Budget for the year is \$88,067. To date we have used about 25% (\$19,853.70) which seem appropriate as we are about 25% through the fiscal year.
  - B. **Fund Balance** - There is a surplus of about \$49,394. R.Waldron spoke with Brian about using some of those fund to do some repairs on the gazebo in Riverside Park (New Electrical sockets, power box, fresh paint). She roughly estimates the work to be about \$2,000.
  - C. **Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report** - Current balance is \$31,274. The first deposit of the OEC grant was deposited in the amount of \$22 080. The total amount of eth grant was \$44,000; COVID bonuses for purely recreation staff that worked throughout the pandemic were distributed and totaled just under \$5,000
5. **Director’s Report (given by B. Lievens)**
  - A. **Purely Recreation** -For September, there were 25 kids for before school and 27 kids for after school. For October, all families were automatically re-enrolled and they will be sent invoices; the families can dis-enroll or pay the invoice to continue care. Credit was given to families while kids were remotely learning. There will be a booth set up at community day to spread the word about the program.
  - B. **Special Events**

- Summer Concert Series. Concluded on 9/12, which was sparsely attended. Would be best to have all concerts in summer months and any reschedule dates for the end of August.
- Community Day. Scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. There will be about 64 booths currently registered (44 business; 20 non-profits). Brian will check and see if there is a rain date scheduled.
- Train Wreck Park Dedication. Scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 1pm. The rain date is scheduled for the follow Sunday on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Recreation is looking to partner with the trails committee to launch a competitive trash clean-up program "Litter League" in the Spring.
- Halloween Light Show. Scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This will be held at the TMHS Auditorium which has a capacity of 200 due to the COVID safety guidelines. The show lasts about 30-40 minutes and costs about \$800 for a 600 person show. Reservations for the show will be encouraged with a set limit of 4 seats per family. B. Lievens will look to see if the vender is willing to do 2 shows back-to-back so that 400 people can view the show.
- Trunk or Treat. Scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4pm to 6pm at the Thompson Speedway
- Turkey Trot. Scheduled for Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Sponsorships total over \$9,325, Turkey Trot record!

#### C. Adult Program

- Yoga is offered on 2 platforms; virtual class in process Saturday and in-person class starts on 9/29.
- "UpCycled" art show taking place at the community day. There is still time for entrants to register. *\*C.Antos asked if the nip bottle project has started. \*\*B.Lievens advised that the project is in the works and will be showcased at community day at the teardrop in the park.*

#### D. Senior Programs

- Senior Strength and Balance. Currently meeting every Tuesday & Thursday morning.
- Senior Line Dance. Currently meeting every Wednesday.
- Senior Craft. Meeting once a month

#### E. Youth Programs

- Purely Recreation. Before/Afterschool has automatically enrolled all September families into October. There are about 10 more spots to fill. Outreach opportunities include flyers, email blasts, Facebook or posts to the electronic board at the town hall.

- Trunk or Treat scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Youth Basketball. Starts November 30<sup>th</sup> and runs through mid-February.

*\*\*\*T. Jourdan joined zoom meeting. The Commission was now at quorum status as of 6:58pm.*

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

A. Park Donation/Memorial Policy. Town resident called asking to donate funds for a memorial bench in Riverside Park. *\*B. Lievense feels any new benches should match the two (2) benches that are currently in the park (sides of gazebo facing the river) with any inscription being approved by the recreation committee. \*C. Antos agrees that there should be guidelines for design, inscription and location. The bench should be sturdy due to potential vandalism. \*B. Lievense will look into putting a formal guideline together and submitting that to the committee for approval.* This would need to go through Board of Selectman for final approval.

A Motion was attempted regarding the memorial bench but there was no response from T. Jourdan. This was set aside for the next meeting.

B. Capital Projects. Ideas about some capital projects that could use town support.

- Bull Hill Field. There are drainage issues at the fields. Previous records show this project has been looked at several times. *\*D. Poitras this is large commitment and would require significant money for repairs and maintenance.*
- Riverside Basketball Courts. Located behind the clubhouse, these are in need of resurfacing.
- Little League Complex Improvements. *\*W. Barber noted that there is ongoing fundraising and grants in process for repairs to the fences, fields and scoreboards.*
- Lillian Ave Area. This is a large area owned by the town, approximately 4-5 acres. Would be great for a park or some fields.
- Tennis Courts at the High School. The courts need to be resurfaced.

*\*C. Antos we should start on the smaller projects and see how those go before taking on larger projects.*

C. New Recreation Programs.

- Youth Basketball begins on November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Babysitter certification course scheduled December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Letters to Santa (New) Letters can be dropped off at Town Hall, looking to partner with local group (Thompson Seniors possibly)
- Litter League (Competitive trash pick-up) launching in the spring, partnering with Trails Committee
- Carry-In, Carry-Out policy at Gazebo. Recreation received pictures of trash in Riverside park. *\*C. Antos there used to be trash cans but they were thrown in the river. Any new containers should be chained. \*W. Barber we should speak with the Lions to see if they have the information on who built the*

*existing gazebo to see if they can give an accurate quote of repairs (electrical, painting).* B. Lievense noted he will get three (3) quotes to present and we can make a motion regarding repairs of the gazebo at the next meeting.

7. Old Business.

- A. Aide to the Recreation Director. Amanda Lincoln was hired and will be starting September 27<sup>th</sup>. This is a part-time 19.5-hour week position.
- B. OEC Fund distribution. The first deposit was received. COVID bonus for Purely recreation staff approved at the last meeting was paid to employees. Funds need to be used by 2023. The OEC funds will also pay one (1) purely recreation staff member for the 2021-2022 school year; 3 hours of the Aide to Recreation Director position and staff trainings.
- C. UCONN Engineering. No new information. Students are still looking at various projects.

8. Other comments from the commission.

C.Antos at the next meeting we need to make the calendar for meetings in 2022 so they can be approved at the combined November/December meeting.

9. Correspondence. None

10. Citizen's Comments. No citizens present.

11. Announcements. None

12. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 @ 6:30 PM by zoom.

**13. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by D. Keefe, seconded by D. Poitras; all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25p.**

Respectfully Submitted 09/28/2021

*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.*