

Town of Amherst Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

5:00pm via Zoom

Attendees:

Kevin Durawa

Tim Gardner

Pam Hart

Kim Kriner

Michael MacDonald (excused)

Jacqui Berger, Amherst Town Board Liaison (excused)

Mary-Diana Pouli, Executive Director/Youth & Recreation Department

Eric Guzdek, Recreation Specialist/Youth & Recreation Department

Call to Order

- A. Mr. Gardner called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.
- B. *Mr. Durawa made a motion to approve the minutes from February, seconded by Mrs. Kriner. Motion passed.*

Presentation/Public Comment None

Old Business

A. COVID Updates

Ms. Pouli informed the Commission that one-third of the Youth & Recreation Department staff has been vaccinated. The office remains closed to the public with ID cards continuing to be issued by appointment only. She expects full participation with regards to this year's summer camps. This year's recess camps also show increasing numbers. Regarding the status of the hockey state and national championships, Mr. Guzdek stated that this year the NY State Hockey Championships will take place in Niagara County and the National Championships will be hosted by the city of St. Louis due to restrictions placed on events by Erie County.

B. Skatepark

Ms. Pouli relayed that the Town of Amherst does not need to take out a special insurance policy for the skatepark. The park can be covered under the Town's current insurance plan. Additionally, fencing and new signage will be added this spring.

New Business

A. New Golf Management Company and Rate Approval

Ms. Pouli discussed the hiring of Indigo Golf Management to oversee the golf courses this summer. The company will hire a general manager and staff for the Audubon Course, Par 3, and driving range this summer. The Commission reviewed the proposed rates and specials for this summer's golf season. *Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the suggested rates for the 2021 golf season, seconded by Mrs. Hart. Motion passed.*

Liaison Report

Ms. Berger reported on the continued improvements to the football fields at the North Amherst Recreation Center (NARC) for use by Williamsville Junior Football. Ms. Berger also stated that three fields in Amherst have been identified for use by the Amherst Girls Softball League. The fields will need some minor preparation, such as temporary fencing.

Executive Director/Youth & Recreation Department Report

Ms. Pouli stated that enrollment for this summer's camp program is close to pre-COVID numbers. On March 26th, the Youth & Recreation Department, along with the Senior Center and Audubon Library will host a "Spring Stroll" event where participants will walk through tents, collecting crafts, treats, and eggs as well as visit with some spring characters. The department will have two sites for the spring recess camp and enrollment numbers look good.

Facilities Report

No report

Chairperson Report

No report

Liaison Reports

- A. Daemen College, AYB, Football – Daemen men's basketball is in the NCAA Division II championships
- B. Skatepark, Parks & Playgrounds, Amherst Skating Club – No report
- C. High School Baseball, Little League Baseball, Youth Softball, Adult Softball, Golf – No report
- D. Ice Hockey, Town Recreation Facilities – No report
- E. Individuals with disabilities – No report
- F. Racquet Sports, Soccer, Lacrosse – No report

Correspondence

No report

Press Releases/News Articles

None

Adjournment

Mrs. Hart moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Kriner. Meeting adjourned at 5:37pm.

Next meeting will be April 13, 2021 via Zoom