

Town of Amherst Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 11th, 2021

5:00pm via Zoom

Attendees:

Dick Duquin
Kevin Durawa
Tim Gardner
Pam Hart
Kim Kriner
Michael MacDonald

Guests:

Christopher Drongosky

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 5:02pm.
- B. *Mrs. Hart made a motion to approve the minutes from April 2021, seconded by Mrs. Kriner. Motion passed.*

Presentation/Public Comment

Old Business

A. COVID Updates

Ms. Pouli informed the Commission that the Youth & Recreation Department office is fully open to the public with social distancing measures still in place. She further stated that the Youth & Recreation Department office is the first department to be back at 100% within the town and that the department is looking forward to summer.

New Business

A. Non-Resident Pool Pass

Ms. Pouli relayed to the Commission that due to COVID, last year the pools were limited to Amherst residents only. During a regular year, non-resident pool visitors provide a substantial amount of income to the Department. However, just like last year, the Youth & Recreation Department will not see that income if the pool is limited once again to Amherst residents. Therefore, Ms. Pouli proposed to introduce, on a trial basis, to offer a non-resident pool pass. The cost of a non-resident pool pass will be \$50 per person up to \$200 per family with kids under the age of 18. Ms. Pouli anticipates selling at least 100 passes this summer. The Grandparent/Grandchild passes will still be the same: \$40 each for the season. The access to the pool will be the same as last year, through reservations only. Ms. Pouli stated that for this year, the Department can double the amount of reservations and still stay under the quota established by the state.

Mr. MacDonald made a motion to approve the plan of the non-resident passes, seconded by Mrs. Kriner. Motion passed.

B. April Golf Revenue

Ms. Pouli gave the revenue report for the Audubon and Par 3 golf courses as well as the driving range.

C. Northwest Amherst Community Center

Ms. Pouli reported that the Town of Amherst is looking to lease a facility near the intersection of Sweet Home Road and North French Road to establish the Northwest Amherst Community Center. The facility is 30,000 square feet and is available to lease with the ability to purchase after 10 years. The proposal is to move the Amherst Youth & Family Center from its Northtown location to this facility to better serve the community. In addition to the Amherst Youth & Family Center programs (after school and summer camp), the Sweet Home School District will have an outreach location there for family support. The Amherst Center for Senior Services will place two social workers there to help with the senior community in the area. Within the facility will be classrooms, offices, and a gym for limited use.

Liaison Report – Ms. Berger was excused from the meeting

Executive Director/Youth & Recreation Department Report

Ms. Pouli let the Commission know that the Summer Program Guide will be out by the end of the week with registration for summer courses beginning on Monday, May 17th.

Facilities Report

Mr. Guzdek reported on the continuing work establishing the Williamsville Junior Football league at the North Amherst Recreation Center. Mr. Guzdek also mentioned that an agreement has been reached with Ciminelli Development regarding the use of the football field at the Northtown Center for the time being. Mr. Guzdek relayed that USA Hockey was due for a site visit this next week and had reached an agreement with Daemen College to house the 500+ athletes that come for the hockey clinics over the summer.

Chairperson Report

Mr. Gardner stated the Amherst Central Task Force agendas and meetings can now be viewed by the public through the Town of Amherst website.

Liaison Reports

- A. Daemen College, AYB, Football – No report
- B. Skatepark, Parks & Playgrounds, Amherst Skating Club – Mr. Guzdek stated that quotes have been solicited for fencing around the skatepark.
- C. High School Baseball, Little League Baseball, Youth Softball, Adult Softball – No Report
- D. Golf – Mr. Duquin gave a report on the opening and maintenance of the Audubon Golf course.
- E. Ice Hockey, Town Recreation Facilities – No report
- F. Individuals with disabilities – No report
- G. Racquet Sports, Soccer, Lacrosse – No report

Correspondence

No report

Press Releases/News Articles

None

Adjournment

Mr. Gardner moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. MacDonald. Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Next meeting is June 8th, 2021 at 5:00pm via Zoom