

Town of Amherst Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

5:00pm via Zoom

Attendees:

Tony Day
Dick Duquin
Tim Gardner
Pam Hart
Kim Kriner
Michael MacDonald (Excused)

Guests:

Justin Easton, Amherst Soccer Association
Unidentified caller

Jacqui Berger, Amherst Town Board Liaison

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

Eric Guzdek, Recreation Specialist/Youth & Recreation Department (Excused)

Call to Order

- A. Mr. Gardner called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.
- B. *Mrs. Hart made a motion to approve the minutes from February 2024, seconded by Mr. Duquin. Motion passed.*

Presentation/Public Comment

- A. Mr. Justin Easton from the Amherst Soccer Association requested the time line for the installation of restroom facilities at the North French soccer fields. Ms. Pouli responded that the Youth & Recreation Department would like to see facilities at all of Amherst parks. She stated that construction of such facilities have been pushed back for another year due to budget constraints.

Old Business

A. Dellwood Park Accessible Field

The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) awarded a grant in 2020 to the Town of Amherst for the construction of an inclusive softball/baseball field at Dellwood Park. The contract has finally been received. It is hoped that construction will begin this year.

New Business

A. Personnel Updates/Concerns

Ms. Pouli updated the Commission on the status of staffing within the Youth & Recreation Department. She was pleased to let the Commission know that a new Family Room Program Leader was hired and is working out well. However, due to lack of staffing for labor and maintenance, some facilities and programs may be restricted or not offered this summer. Ms. Pouli listed the issues to attract and retain staff as the pay and hours. The department has advertised the opportunities on various websites and job fairs. She encouraged the Commission to help get the word out regarding the opportunities.

B. Technology Issues

Ms. Pouli briefed the Commission on the previous technical difficulties regarding the registration for the 2024 summer camp. She relayed the plan of having two registration dates; one week for the middle school age camp and the following week for the elementary school age camp.

Liaison Report

Ms. Berger briefed the Commission on the on-going Amherst Central Park project.

Executive Director/Youth & Recreation Department Report

Ms. Pouli reported that the outreach programs within the Youth & Recreation Department are in their second sessions and are going well. She invited the Commission to join her at a "Business After Hours" event for the Amherst Chamber of Commerce at the Northwest Amherst Community Center.

Facilities Report

Ms. Pouli reported for Mr. Guzdek that the NYSAHA hockey tournaments were going well with two tournaments completed and two more to go as well as the USA Hockey Tier II national tournament happening in April.

Chairperson's Report

No Report.

Liaison Reports

- A. Daemen College, AYB, Football, Soccer** – No Report.
- B. Golf** – Mr. Duquin reported on the number of rounds completed since January, the number of season passes already sold and the income made by the driving range from the first of the year. He also reported on the progress made regarding winter improvements to ready the courses for the upcoming season. He relayed that the architect hired to evaluate and improve the courses will visit in April. Mr. Duquin stated that most of the summer staff will be coming back for the season and that there will be three weeks of junior golf camp offered again this summer.
- C. Skatepark, Parks & Playgrounds, Amherst Skating Club** - No Report.
- D. High School Baseball, Little League Baseball, Youth Softball, Adult Softball** – Mr. Gardner reported that tryouts for the high school teams have started.
- E. Ice Hockey** – No Report.
- F. Northwest Amherst Community Center, Town Recreation Facilities, Lacrosse** – No Report.
- G. Individuals with disabilities** – No Report.
- H. Racquet Sports** – No Report.

Correspondence

No Report.

Press Releases/News Articles

No Report.

Adjournment

Mr. Day moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Duquin. Meeting adjourned at 5:41pm.