

Town of Middlebury Parks and Recreation



Betsy Anderson, Director

COMMISSIONERS
Ron Clark, Chairman
Carolanne Browne
Mike Roach
Robert Mastroianni

MIDDLEBURY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION Meeting Minutes Thursday October 12, 2023

Present: Betsy Anderson, Director
Ron Clark, Chairman
Carolanne Browne
Mike Roach
Robert Mastroianni

Absent: Sharon Bosco

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Ron Clark called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

GREENWAY REPORT:

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUDGET

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

BUILDING AND PARKS

Mike Roach asked what the commission would like to do with the fall ball signs at Quassy Field. The signs can be stored at the field or he can bring them back to Shepardson. The commission agreed to store the signs at the field for the winter.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Carolanne Browne said parents are talking about basketball and have seen the advertisement for who will be coaching this season. She thought this ad helped and would be a good thing.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Betsy Anderson reported there were 360 MRA passes sold this season with 366 passes sold last year. The MRA remained open on weekends until September 17th. A discussion ensued regarding proof of residency in regards to the MRA and other Park and Recreation activities. She reported the summer camps went well. There were 395 participants this year. There were 5 sessions of Preteen camp and 6 sessions of Playground camp. The Skyhawks program was offered again in conjunction with Woodbury Parks and Rec this summer. The Mini Hawks and Multi-Sport camps along with Flag Football all had enough participants this year and 3 sessions of Art Exploration Preschool camp was offered as well. Betsy Anderson reviewed the fall programs being offered. Some of them are the karate program, Outdoor Walk & Tone fitness class, and the addition of a new yoga instructor. The Park and Rec has also partnered with Woodbury Ballet and are offering dance programs. They are also offering a Safe at Home class and a Safe Sitter Babysitting class. There are also 2 preschool enrichment classes being offered and they previously ran a 5-week Pomperaug Youth Field Hockey Clinic. Middlebury is partnering with Pomperaug Basketball this year. There is also a co-ed over 30 basketball league being offered. A discussion ensued regarding surveys created from Civic Rec sent to participants of each program.

Betsy Anderson said the first round of playground repairs at Meadowview arrived a few weeks ago and will be installed by Public Works. She also thanked the Commission for their hard work on the Summer Concert Series. They were all extremely well attended. Betsy Anderson reviewed upcoming events. Trick or Trunk will be held on October 28th and the Tree Lighting on the green will be December 2nd. Carolanne Browne suggested having a tree donated and put inside the gazebo and having the tree lighting there. She noted that Shepardson has ample parking. She also suggested putting the ornaments on display inside Shepardson.

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Mike Roach and seconded by Robert Mastroianni to **APPROVE** the Directors Report.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Summer Concert Series 2024**

Carolanne Browne said the concerts were well attended, and she got great feedback on all 3 concerts. She has put together a survey as a follow up for the concerts that can be put on the Facebook page and the Park and Recreation site for more feedback. She is hoping it will get more visibility for next year. She noted they had over 300 people attend. Ron Clark said he would like to get input from the people who attended. The Commission agreed to move forward with the 2024 concert series. Carolanne Browne said there are still funds left for next year. She would like to start planning in January and lookfor donations sooner.

- **MRA Review 2023**

Ron Clark said the Commission will be discussing this in the future. They are still waiting on information regarding the new building.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion of use of Shepardson Community Center Policy**

Ron Clark said the Commission needs to look Shepardson because it is an asset to the community. He also noted this commission is a policy making commission. The building is not busy on the weekends, and he feels this has to stop. He said he would like to have a future discussion regarding the union issue and the cost. He said they need to discuss their policies on the type of groups or individuals they want to utilize the building.

Betsy Anderson said a resident reached out and asked to have an 18 piece orchestra rehearsal in the auditorium. She noted it's not something that is typically permitted during the week. She didn't have an answer for the gentleman because she didn't know what the policy was. She said that boy scouts meet in Room 5 at the same time which is directly downstairs. Carolanne Browne said it's a first come first serve basis. She asked if they would be paying for the space and if anyone asked the boy scouts if they minded. She felt they could notify anyone using the building at that time out of courtesy. Betsy Anderson said this would be opening doors to similar group rentals. Mike Roach suggested they give it a try. Ron Clark felt it would be opening the door to revenue and possibly other similar types of users. Ron Clark and Carolanne Browne felt it was ok to do a trial basis as long as it didn't interfere with anyone else.

Ron Clark said they need to work on their policies, have frank discussions and they need to start bringing issues to the Selectman. He felt they need to make sure that Betsy Anderson is getting the proper resources she needs. He said they will start dealing with some of the issues that need fixing. They need a clear understanding of what they are entitled to. He feels the commission is an instrumental role in the town and getting people together.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Carolanne Browne and seconded by Mike Roach to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:14 PM

cc: Town Clerk
Commission Members
Betsy Anderson
Sharon Bosco