

Town of Middlebury Parks and Recreation



Betty Proulx, APRP
Director

COMMISSIONERS
Ron Clark, Chairman
Jack Worgan
Ralph Barra
Carolanne Browne
Russell Tolles

MIDDLEBURY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Thursday December 12, 2019
Shepardson Community Center
Room 1

Present: Ron Clark, Chairman
Betty Proulx, Director
Ralph Barra
Jack Worgan – arrived at 6:02 PM
Carolanne Browne
Russell Tolles

Absent:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Ron Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

APPROVE MINUTES

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Russell Tolles and seconded by Carolanne Browne to **APPROVE** the November 14, 2019 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

GREENWAY REPORT

Betty reported that the greenway is closed, but that the fences have been installed and it is a big improvement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUDGET

Jack Worgan said they are only 4 months into the year so there is not much to report. Betty said they will struggle this fiscal year because of the purchase of VT Systems. The water usage was also high this year because of the sprinkler system that wasn't working properly at Schoolhouse Park.

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Ralph Barra and seconded by Russell Tolles to **ACCEPT** the budget report.

PERSONNEL

None

BUILDING AND PARKS

Ralph Barra had nothing new to report. Betty reported that the wiring for the 18 cameras at Ledgewood are in as well as the polls. All of this is included under the Capital Plan. She also reported that she ordered parts for the playgrounds as well as mulch which is all part of the Capital Plan.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Carolanne said the town tree lighting was very nice and she felt there was a good turnout. She felt it ended abruptly. A discussion ensued. Carolanne also reported that she received an email from a parent in regards to the girls' basketball. The email was also sent to Betty. There is a problem with 5th and 6th grade basketball, there are very few participants. Betty said she has sent an email to Southbury, and she noted that Woodbury doesn't have a team. Carolanne said there is no coach and the parents felt they weren't notified of the situation.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Betty Proulx told the board that she went before the BOF last night regarding the previous computer issue. She showed the board what she presented to them in regards to it. She handed the board a copy of the yearly quote. She noted that VT Systems will maintain $\frac{3}{4}$ of it and the department will be responsible for the rest. She said that she talked with Bill Stowell and will be setting up separate line items for next year's budget for VT Systems. Ron noted that this could have been prevented if there had been the necessary back up, but they are in a much better place now. He complimented Betty for her efforts.

OLD BUSINESS

Ron Clark said the parks are closed and the skate park is shut down for the time being. He noted there is a significant decrease of children participating in sports. He asked the board to try and figure out how to get kids to participate more. He said it seems that all towns are facing the same problem. He reminded the board that it cost a lot of money to maintain the parks and fields in town. Betty said she is going to reach out to Lacrosse and Pop Warner regarding the use of our parks. They are currently using Long Meadow.

Betty told that board that typically in January the department puts an ad in the Voices, but they won't be doing that this year. Voices has asked for \$900.00, which is not in the budget. It is however in the budget for Spring/Fall. She said instead she will post the activities on line.

She reviewed the winter warnings regarding skating with the board and asked to make some changes. She explained that with the inconsistent weather it's not always safe to skate. She asked if the board wanted to do away with skating all together.

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Jack Worgan and seconded by Carolanne Browne to **CHANGE** the winter warning to "Ice Skating – use at your own risk, no supervision is provided at the pond.

NEW BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Carolanne Browne and seconded by Russell Tolles to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 6:41 PM

cc: Town Clerk
Commission Members
Betty Proulx
Bill Stowell