

Town of Middlebury Parks and Recreation



**Betsy Anderson, APRP
Director**

COMMISSIONERS
Ron Clark, Chairman
Jack Worgan
Carolanne Browne
Russell Tolles

MIDDLEBURY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 11, 2020

**Middlebury Town Hall via Zoom Meeting
Conference Room**

Present: Ron Clark, Chairman
Betsy Anderson, Director
Mike Roach
Carolanne Browne
Russell Tolles

Absent: Jack Worgan

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Ron Clark called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. During this meeting the members present practiced social distancing.

Ron Clark introduced Mike Roach as a new appointed commissioner. Mike told the board that he grew up in Middlebury, has 4 kids, and is excited to be here.

APPROVE MINUTES

The board held off voting until next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

GREENWAY REPORT

Ron Clark said that they are working with the greenway committee, and at the next meeting it all should be solidified. He said it is a small committee at the moment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUDGET

None

PERSONNEL

None

BUILDING AND PARKS

Ron Clark appointed Mike Roach to the building and parks. He noted that it is pretty slow at the moment.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Carolanne Browne said a letter has been sent out regarding the rules of the MRA. She has received questions regarding the 4th of July, but personally felt the letter was clear on the protocol. It states it will be open to residents only. Betsy said they will have to wait to see what phase 2 looks like for the MRA, but there have been no guidelines released yet. Right now, they are not allowing guests to the MRA. She noted there will not be fireworks at Quassy this year. She said there will be a more formal announcement put out, but they don't have all the information right now. She said that within the last 2 weeks they have sold 160 passes.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Betsy reported the MRA has been open for a couple of weeks now and everything is going good so far. They will be opening full time on June 13th. There have been 160 passes sold so far. They held a boat rack lottery on June 3rd, and the office stayed open late on Friday for people to come in and pick up their passes. She said they did have a wait list for the boat racks. Betsy said the beach lockers need to be rebuilt, but that won't happen until next year. In the mean time they have utilized the space to make more boat racks.

Betsy said they are working on summer camps, but it has been challenging and they are trying to come up with a plan. She is hoping by next week they will have a concrete plan. She said in the past they have been able to use the schools and she is still trying to communicate with Region 15. Celebrate Middlebury will take place September 12th. There is already a committee set up and they will be making plans. Mike said he didn't want them to feel discouraged about the amount of passes sold so far for the MRA because it's been an off year. He said that everyone is doing great.

Betsy said June 29th will start the 6 week younger kids camp. They will be trying for 5 days a week. The teen camp will run for 5 weeks starting on July 6th. She said the big issue they will have with the teen camps is the trips, because with social distancing requirements it's not cost effective.

Russ asked about the cleaning of the parks. Betsy said that they have not yet opened the bathrooms.

VOTE: Unanimously on a motion by Russell Tolles and seconded by Carolanne Brown to **ACCEPT** the directors report.

OLD BUSINESS

- **MRA update**

NEW BUSINESS

- **Park and Recreation 21st Century**

Ron Clark said that the park and recreation department is now open for business. They are moving forward with opening the MRA. He said they need to see where they are at and where they want to go. It's been a team effort with Betsy and the commission. Everyone has an assignment. He encourages everyone to contact Betsy so there is clear and open communication in order to discuss ideas. Ron said that Betsy is doing unbelievable work, and he has received good comments. Ron said they will possibly be having workshops to brainstorm for ideas. He wants the commission to start looking down the road. He said that with everything going on they were still able to open the MRA and possibly the camps. He said they need to start to plan to move in the direction that is conducive with the town and the people they serve.

Ron said there will not be a July meeting unless there is something that needs to be discussed.

Ralph Barra said that he and Kevin will be putting up the signs at the parks saying dogs need to be on a leash.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Mike Roach and seconded by Russell Tolles to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 6:23 PM

cc: Town Clerk
Commission Members
Betsy Anderson
Bill Stowell