

Recreation Committee
MINUTES / February 8, 2022

Approved
August 24, 2022

Members Present: Heidi Richards, Kathy Hogue

Member Excused: Coren Wheeler, Ansley Newton

1. Meeting was called to order 7:00pm. Minutes of September 22, 2021, were approved as written.
2. Municipal sign update:
 - a. The Planning Board has crafted new wording in the Sign Ordinance to address the confusion about “changeable signs”. This was supposed to be on the Town Meeting last June; with abrupt changes in office staff, it didn’t make the warrant. Again, it was to be voted on at Special Town Meeting on Feb 14, 2022; somehow it was missed. It is the hope that this ordinance change will make Town Meeting in June 2022.
 - b. Last fall, the parking lot at Mallet Hall was paved. With the question of the sign still up in the air, but wanting to take advantage of the parking lot work being done, an electrical conduit was run underground to a spot where a potential sign would go. No decisions have been made regarding the sign, there is still debate whether it should be a manually changeable sign or an electronic sign.
3. Pownal Recreation Brochure is very outdated with many organizations not in existence any more. Kathy will work on a draft of a new brochure for review/approval.
4. Community Events 2022
 - a. Since we are still in the middle of this Covid pandemic, it was agreed that any events hosted by the Recreation Committee would be kept small and outside. We would encourage mask wearing, but not be “mask police”.
 - b. SPRING COMMUNITY DAY / May (date to be determined). Town committees and departments could have a table /display to talk about their committee and to encourage new memberships. Conservation Commission could talk about invasive species, town wood lots, etc. Recycling Committee could provide recycling information and invite a rep from EcoMaine. The Fire Department can have a fire truck on the site, etc. Freeport Community Services would have a table. A plant swap, live music and a bake sale would be other potential ideas.
 - c. AUTUMN POTLUCK / October (date to be determined). This event would be a very simple nod to the Pumpkin Festival. A potluck and pumpkin carving. Display the lit pumpkins.
5. Other
 - a. Remote Participation Policy for Recreation Committee will be adopted at Special Town Meeting on Feb 14, 2022.

- b. Recreation Committee Budget: At the 2019 Town Meeting, voters approved \$2,000 for the start up of the Pumpkin Festival. That money was supposed to be put in a separate account for that use. The money was never allocated due to the pandemic and that the event was cancelled. To date, that account cannot not be located by new office staff. If money isn't used in that year, it is rolled over into surplus and would have to be allocated again at a Town Meeting. After talking with Becky our TA, it would make sense for the Recreation Committee to have their own budget, to be voted on at Town Meeting. Any monies raised would go into that budget line. Any money needed to be withdrawn would be put on the Select Board warrant for approval/payment. If money is handled in this way, we would be eligible for a very reasonable insurance rate for events through MMA. Becky will draft the needed warrant articles for June 2022 Town Meeting.
- c. New members: This committee could use some more members. Perhaps we could put in a plug in the upcoming Select Board Newsletter.

TO DO LIST

1. Set dates for 2 events / Kathy will talk with staff and email committees
2. Explore potential tent rentals / Kathy will talk with Chris Bell
3. Ask Conservation Commission and Recycling Committee about their participation in Spring event / Heidi
4. Ask school/scouts about having a bake sale at spring event / Coren?
5. Live music?
6. Draft flyer for the 2 events to be included with Select Board Newsletter / Kathy

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Hogue / Chair*