

Recreation Committee
MINUTES / September 22, 2021

Approved
08FEB2022

Members Present: Coren Wheeler, Heidi Richards, Ansley Newton, Kathy Hogue

Member Excused: Liza Nichols

Guest: Valerie Abradi / Race Director Big Brad Ultras, Mindy

1. Meeting was called to order 7:00pm. Minutes of February 26, 2020, were approved as written.
2. Big Brad Ultra Trail Monster Running: Valerie Abradi presented the map of this year's run. It will be identical to the race held the past 2 years, utilizing a trail located on town-owned land on Elmwood Road as part of the running event. The only change this year is that their Aid Station will be located on Lawrence Road at the parking lot to the Tryon Field Trail rather than at the Public Works building, as last year. A certificate of insurance will be emailed to the town office. All markings and any potential litter will be removed the day after the race. Since there have been no issues with the past 2 races, the committee agreed to recommend to the Select Board to allow access again.

MOTION: It was moved and 2nd to recommend to the Pownal Select Board that the Town give permission for the Big Brad Ultras to use town-owned property located on Elmwood Road as part of the trail for the Trail Monster Running event to be held on October 10, 2021. All voted in favor.

3. Municipal Sign: Kathy brought the committee up to date regarding the sign ordinance, and the discussions at a meeting on July 19 and again on August 23 regarding a municipal sign. The committee discussed the pros and cons regarding a digital sign vs. a manual sign. There were many concerns raised regarding the digital sign to include light pollution, additional lights in town center, neighbor impact, driver distractions. Ansley noted that some towns are regretting putting in a digital sign, the distraction of the changing sign has caused increased car accidents. Although it was acknowledged that a digital sign would be helpful in changing the message, even from other locations, the committee felt unanimously that a manually-changed sign is the best option for the town.

MOTION: It was moved and 2nd to provide the Select Board with a statement on the Recreation Committee's stand that the municipal sign should be manual not digital. All voted in favor. Kathy will create a statement, send it to the committee for approval, and then send it to the Select Board.

4. Kathy passed out the Pownal Recreation brochure (created in 2014) and noted to the committee that the information is quite outdated. Members will review and come with ideas and updates for the next meeting.
5. Community Events / 2022: With the resurgence of the Corona virus, the committee discussed options for future community events. It was agreed that we should focus on outdoor events and encourage safe practices. The committee will meet in January to put together a calendar of potential events for 2022. Some ideas are: Haunted Walk, Plant Swap, Full Moon Walk, Bird Watching / Bradbury, Family Paddle Meet-up, Sledding Party, Snowshoeing, Hiking Groups, Toy Swap, Sports Equipment Swap. The calendar could look like this:

January – 12th Night Party

February – Valentine Potluck

March – Historical Society's Annual Meeting

April – Earth Day / Pride Day

May – Spring Social

June – Town Meeting Potluck

July – Family Paddle Meet-up

October – Pumpkin Festival

November – Bradbury Mountain Arts Show and Sale

6. Other

- a. Casco Bay Trail System: Kathy shared information regarding the Casco Bay Trail System from the public hearing on August 23. At this time, the Town has entered in to an agreement to be part of the “Rail Corridor Advisory Council” process to consider alternative future uses of the corridor, specifically as a rail trail. The section located in Pownal is about a mile long.
- b. Recreation Committee Policies and Procedures: It was agreed to add to the committee's policies and procedures a statement regarding repeat events (such as the Ultra Brads). For previously approved events held on town-owned property, and with no new changes, the request for approval from the Town can go directly to the Select Board. Kathy will make the change and send the updated Policies and Procedures to the Board.

Meeting adjourned: 8:16pm

Kathleen A. Hogue / Chair