

PITTSFORD PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes

April 15, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Ron Anderson, Shawn LeBlanc, Lisa Stein, Kevin Beckford, Rachel Baker, Pam Cooper-Vince, Greg Riley and John Reddington

Also Present: Jessie Hollenbeck, Recreation Director and Kevin Beckford, Town Board liaison

Absent: Rick Taylor, Ben McCormick

The meeting opened at 6:30 pm

Jessie Hollenbeck, Meeting Host:

- February 2021 minutes were approved.
- The Parks & Rec. board meeting venue/zoom options will be looked at in a few weeks.
- Jessie reminded everyone to take the annual, mandatory sexual harassment training.

Paul Schenkel, Commissioner of Public Works, DPW Update:

- Paul reported that the Erie Nature Preserve is complete, with a few small things left to do, including signage, plantings, etc. There will be ribbon cutting ceremony on April 22nd, which is Earth Day. He has received great reviews on the new park.
- In the future various fields within the town will have meadow mix of wild flowers planted.
- Paul discussed the new patio that will be constructed at the Community Center. A contractor has been hired and the patio construction will begin in the next couple of weeks. The furniture, planters, pavers, etc. have all been ordered.
- Paul announced that there will be kayak launch (floating dock) installed in the canal in the vicinity of the sewer dept. The dock has been purchased and permits need to be obtained. The question came up of security/monitoring the area and Paul stated that there is a camera on the sewer dept. building and it is a busy area with plenty of activity.
- Paul reported on the community garden, located at Thornell Farm Park. It has been expanded by more than 30 more garden plots, due to the high demand. There are basic gardening tools and supplies provided and any unused produce is being donated to the Pittsford Food Cupboard.
- Paul discussed the issues involving a public skating rink. Costs would entail equipment, staffing, cleaning and set up and tear down. Other details include an appropriate site, parking, restrooms, lighting and a warming building. The only viable venue would be Thornell Farm Park. The canal is not usable due to water levels & safety concerns. Paul researched other town rinks and their issues include the variable winter weather.

- Paul talked about future sidewalk/trail projects including: Alpine Knoll, Mendon & Thornell Rd., and East Ave at Kilbourn Place, the Auburn Trail, and a pedestrian crossing at RR Mills Rd. & Sturbridge Ln. There will be trail upgrades throughout the town. Paul referred to a town trail/sidewalk map to detail the locations for many of the upgrades/improvements. Kevin Beckford questioned the issue of handicapped accessible trails. Paul stated this is always a consideration for new trails as well as existing trails. Other improvements include parking, signage and pedestrian access.

Recreation Update:

Recreation Director Jessie Hollenbeck reported on the following:

- Jessie asked that anyone interested in participating in the Earth Day Clean Up to email him.
- Jessie will be presenting the summer programs to the Town Board at a future meeting.
- Jessie talked about 2021 events including: kid's concerts, outdoor movies, a bike rodeo, Earth Day celebration, Meet the Machines and a kid's trout derby, with the town teaming up with Pittsford Rotary.
- Jessie reported on athletic field use, for both school and community.
- The Pittsford Farmer's Market will run from July 10 – August 28, 2021 at the Spiegel Community Center.

Comments:

The following topics were discussed by the board members:

- Ron Anderson reported on senior activities with an increase in exercise programs. The Monroe County lunches will now be three times a week. Elderberry is expanding their services due to a higher demand.
- Kevin Beckford reported on the topic of neighborhoods having a community space created, including a pavilion, grill and playground. Pam Copper-Vince suggested parking at these community spaces so residents may visit from other neighborhoods.
- Shawn LeBlanc suggested winter outdoor recreation equipment for residents to rent. The details regarding this were discussed, i.e. cost, replacement and storage. Jessie stated that the Recreation Dept. has tried offering winter outdoor programs, in the past, but the unpredictable winter weather has always been a deterrent.

Ron Anderson made a motion to close the meeting. Rachel Baker seconded the motion, which passed following a unanimous vote. The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie A. Donnelly
Secretary