

Colebrook Recreation Board Meeting Minutes, April 7, 2022

Colebrook Town Hall - Senior Center

Recreation Board Attendance: Chris Waring, Justin Truskauskas, Roxanne Puhalski, Ryan Farrell, Jon Ferrante, Katie Martin. Ryan left the meeting at 7:46pm. **Public Attendance:** Peter Gove.

Call to order: Chris Waring called meeting to order at 6:38pm, Roxanne Puhalski 2nd.

March meeting minutes: Jon made a motion to accept the minutes; Justin 2nd. Minutes were approved as written.

Finances: \$120 for soccer donation from Still Life photography, Justin was reimbursed \$180 for basketball equipment, end of the season awards, etc. The balance of the Recreation Board account is \$11,974.86, as of April 7, 2022. If you have money that you collect and turn in yourself to Town Hall, let Jon know who you turned it in to, how much and the date. He will track what goes in and out for money for each sport the board sponsors. This may help us to look at buying new jerseys for soccer, etc.

Old Business:

1. **Job Fair:** Chris Waring reached out to the other local recreation boards to determine how the other local recreation boards operate. Chris learned that in New Hartford, individuals on the board are only in charge of particular sports, there is no director for the board. Chris reached out to feeder town recreation boards about doing a job fair, but no response yet. New Hartford seemed to be interested in having the job fair. Chris will follow up on Monday, April 11, 2022. Chris thinks we may have to attend the other board meetings so that we could talk to them and share ideas such as teen nights.
2. **Snack Shack upgrade:** New plaques need to be made for the last two years for the championship teams- Katie will work on getting this done. There was a discussion about trying to get donations for building supplies to make repairs to the snack shack building. Peter Gove offered to ask a contact at Camp Jewell who has a connection with Lowes if we could get building supply donations from Lowes, as they are very community oriented. The snack shack building needs a new roof, painting of the whole building, sill plates, new doors, and a cleaning of the back storage area. Suggestions were also made to see if possible to get local residents/ parents to donate, as was done in the past to construct the snack shack. There was a suggestion to replace the door for the back storage area with a metal door to make it more secure. For the businesses/ residents that donate we could post a placard to recognize donors. It was suggested that we estimate a price for building materials.
3. **Insurance Policy:** Chris will contact the Town Hall and speak to Karen O'Dell to get information about the insurance coverage for town sports. Chris made a motion to table further discussion about insurance until next meeting, Justin, 2nd. Motion passes.

Basketball: The season is now over. The Colebrook team lost to Norfolk in the semi-finals game, but it was good season. Justin's coach evaluations were good. Nathan Day is interested in taking over coaching next year. Katie suggested that maybe a board member be involved at the beginning of the season next year so that the season goes smoothly. It was also suggested that we start creating a basketball team or activity for the younger students to increase interest, starting in the earlier grades. Justin said that he used to work with 2nd and 3rd grade and work for an hour on skills, prior to the 4th, 5th, 6th grade team

practices. Winsted does a 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade program after the older kids' practices. Justin recommends that you need 6-7 kids to really have meaningful practices, for younger kids, but they don't play games. Get information out after the beginning of the school year to get more interest.

Baseball:

- **T-ball-** Colebrook and Norfolk team is meeting at the field next Saturday, April 16th, 10am. There are two teams, but no coach yet for the second team. Ryan might be able to coach the second t-ball, but would prefer another person to coach instead. Katie suggested that we have an incentive for getting parents to coach. Ryan bought equipment to supply both teams, balls, tees, bats. Parents are responsible for cleats, helmets, etc. Ryan also ordered shirts and hats.
- **Farm team-** Ryan is coaching this team, all equipped, 5 from Colebrook, 2 from Norfolk.
- **Majors:** 4 Colebrook, 8 from Norfolk, Justin Truskauskas, Chris Gomez, and Ben Nadeau are coaching this team.
- **Softball:** 1 girl, was placed on a combined town team

- **Games: Start on April 23rd, T-ball starts the week after.**

- **Field Clean-up-** Next Saturday, April 16th, weather dependent, 9am. We may be able to get the town to mow the field.

- **Spring Field Maintenance-** will cost \$1350 to get the in- field upgraded. Justin Truskauskas made a motion to pay for field maintenance, Ryan 2nd. Motion passes.

Baseball Billboards: Chris will ask about town letterhead to use for the board's letters sent to the businesses. The letters are a request to the businesses to pay \$200 sponsorship so that the board can continue advertising for each business through the displayed field bill boards. Roxanne will send out the letters to the businesses that currently have boards on the fence of the baseball field.

Fishing Derby May 22, 2022: Jon made an updated flyer, food will be provided, all kids get a goodie bag. Jon, Roxanne, and Katie will meet this Saturday at 9:30 to check in the storage shed for supplies left over from last year's event. Still trying to get in touch with the man that supplies the fish. The fish will be dropped off on Friday, Derby is on Saturday, May 21st. We will have to get the key for the gate from Chris Johnstone. If it will be cold, we can have a fire pit at the pond. We need to determine a budget for the food. It will be discussed at the next meeting in May. Roxanne volunteered to pick up all of the food. Recreation members will meet at 7am on derby day to set up. Fishing derby flyer was reviewed. When the flyer is finalized, Katie will put it on the Colebrook Facebook pages. It will also be sent to Hannah McCaw to be put in the weekly flyer for Colebrook students.

Spring/ Summer Events:

- **Storytellers:** Scheduled for June 10th, 6:30pm, at the recreation field. If inclement weather, maybe it can be held at the meeting room at town hall.

- **Magician:** Chris has not contacted him yet, but expecting our call. We are hoping to schedule the show during the Colebrook Fair between the car show and cardboard boat race.

- **Discounted Tickets:** Chris will follow up with membership information to get tickets for locations such as Lake Compounce, etc.

New Business:

1. **Colebrook Fair:** A new fair committee meeting will occur on April 14th, 5:00pm. Recreation board was asked if we wanted to be part of forming the new committee. Chris will attend the meeting. Other members might attend as well. Might be a good idea to know direction, food offerings, etc.
2. **New Board Member Seat:** Any potential new board member needs to be a registered voter in town. The Recreation Board also has to be aware of party affiliation so that the board is not dominated by one political party. Peter Gove suggested that there is a new member packet created explaining the obligations and requirements for the board position. Chris suggested to write a set of by-laws. Katie suggested two people for possible membership, she will follow up with one of the possible recruits and gauge his or her interest.

Adjournment: Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm, Roxanne, 2nd.

Next Meeting – Thursday, May 6, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Roxanne Puhalski