

Recreation Advisory Council Meeting

January 13, 2025

Members Present: Joe Deffner, Rachael Cook, Charlotte Rutledge, Megan Lavik, Nicci Maynard, MaryDan Pomeroy, Brent Mullen. **Absent:** Andy McGovern, Nate Hill, Stacy Barton

1. Approval of Minutes from 10/15/2024 Meeting

- Nicci moved to approve.
- Brent seconded.
- Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Basketball Update

- Rachael said it was challenging at the beginning; things are fine now.
- Balancing things with TASP (Thetford After School Program).
- Rachael asked thoughts about capping numbers so there isn't the need to have two slots for the 5 and 6 boys.
- Joe was not in favor of capping; MaryDan asked about possible slots earlier in the day during game days for the other group. Megan also not in favor; same with MaryDan.
- MaryDan will look at the schedule with Rachael next year to try and accommodate TASP and the larger groups of basketball players.

3. Ski Program Update

- Brent has been working with the ski program on the volunteer side.
- 170 participants; 115 kids and the rest are adults working with the program as volunteers.
- Not as much snow, but first day was this past Friday and everything went fine.
- SkiWay folks (including MaryDan) were very helpful Brent reported.
- Rachael handles the logistics around the buses, and logistics with the SkiWay folks.
- Charlotte asked about succession planning. Brent said that there is a document, but it's not necessarily a step-by-step, how to.
- With parent volunteer leadership aging out of the program, Rachael will keep her eyes out for some folks who might be good at taking over the reins.

4. Upcoming Seasons

A. Baseball (Cal Ripken league) & Softball (Babe Ruth league)

- Rookies and T-ball will not be in a league this year; Rachael will set up games with nearby Teams.
- Nic Cook excited to coach Rookies again.

- Michele Stanley runs Babe Ruth for the area and has reached out to Rachael already.
- Sign-ups should go up in February.
- Rachael said she's learning that sign-ups need to go out sooner than she would have anticipated.
- She also said it would probably also be good to start working on coaches.
- Rachael will also work on reserving the gym for April (for baseball and softball) in coordination with TASP.

B. Circus Camp

- Circus camp will happen over February break.
- Rachael will look to get the link up on the website so that folks can sign-up.

C. Art Camp

- Will also happen in the spring.
- It happened in the fall and was very popular. It filled up very quickly.

D. Pickle Ball

- MaryDan asked about pickle ball and whether that was something Rachael was still interested in doing.
- Rachael said that she is interested in doing it, and since her hours were just bumped up, she should have more time to do it.
- Nicci said you could just do it by drop-in session; MaryDan said it could also be done through paying by month.

E. Summer ball (Four Corners league which happens in June)

- Rachael will explore coaches.
- Conflict last year between home games and Fun Runs at TA.
- Basically, we just need to avoid Tuesday night games at TA.

F. Treasure Island hiring

- Rachael and Megan will work together to coordinate hiring, etc.

5. MyRec Website Concerns

- A very dinosaur like website.
- Rachael is regularly in touch with the help desk, and they are very helpful.
- It might be time to find a different platform.
- Rachael is going to look into it.
- Nicci suggested looking into other rec departments and find out what they're doing.
- Megan said that a lot of towns around us use MyRec, too.
- Rachael is going to chat with Megan about what she might know.

6. Role of the Recreation Advisory Committee

- Charlotte pointed out that our charge on the town website:

“The charge for the Recreation Advisory Council (shall be) “to inventory, research, and promote recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages.”

- MaryDan wondered if the question is what does Brian Story (Town Manager) feel that our role is. And also, what does Rachael feel that the role of the RAC should be.
- Rachael appreciates having input from different people so that there isn't one person making all of the decisions since it's only one person's thinking.
- Brent appreciates having different perspectives from people involved in different sports.
- Charlotte asked if we are meeting frequently enough. Right now, she feels that we are.
- Joe wondered about he and Charlotte meeting with Brian and seeing what he feels RAC's role is versus what we think RAC's role is—just to make sure that we are on the same page.

7. Other Business

- Rachael's hours have gone up. She now can do a minimum of 24, but should not go over 30.
- Charlotte also made a suggestion that Rachael anticipate the equipment needs of the coming Season.
- Megan suggested that the soccer balls be stored indoors.
- One of Rachael's goals is to clean out the rec's storage space in the basement of town hall.
- We'll look at some Saturday to get together and help clear out that space.

Recreation Advisory Council Meeting

October 15, 2024

Members Present: Joe Deffner, Rachael Cook, Charlotte Rutledge, Megan Lavik, Nate Hill, Nicci Maynard, MaryDan Pomeroy, Brent Mullen

1. Approval of Minutes from [June 20, 2024 Meeting](#) (Charlotte)
Motion to approve: Nate. Seconded: Megan. Minutes approved.
2. Treasure Island house (Rachael and guest, Alicia Houk)
Postponed to next meeting.
3. Budget (Rachael)
 - Much of the budget is the same.
 - Rookies and Tee-Ball will be taken out of Cal Ripken, so this is cost savings. Dues will be much lower without those two lower levels included. Those levels will be covered by playing

local teams.

- The biggest difference in the budget are proposed additional hours for the Rec. Director.

4. Rec director job/hours

- Rachael is not quite sure what the right number of additional hours would be.
- Her thought was that the right number of hours is between 25 and 30 hours.
- Her proposal for next year's budget is 30 hours.
- Rachael was also asked to do some posters for the Selectboard.
- Mary Dan pointed out that this additional work doesn't really fall under Rec. and kind of compromises Rachel's time with Rec.
- Nate asked if Rachael had been able to document how she is spending her time, so as to make a case for additional hours.
- Rachael said that she had not found an effective way to document her hours.
- Rachael also wondered if managing the facilities at Treasure Island is the best use of her time.
- MaryDan offered to meet with Rachael and answer any questions she has about Treasure Island and provide advice as needed.
- Joe offered to draft a letter of support from the Rec. Advisory in terms of what might be a better use of Rachael's time.

5. Rec task delegation

- Little pieces of each season where volunteers might be helpful.
- In an earlier conversation, Stacy suggested that parents might be able to help.
- Joe suggested that if there are things that Rachael needs help with, to please reach out to us.

6. Ski program and Basketball

- There has been a pre-season ski meeting.
- Dave Lloyd had been helping, but his child moved up to TA, so he laid out what tasks needed to be done.
- Basketball meeting coming up with other towns.
- Before that meeting, Rachael hopes to touch base with those who want to be coaches.
- MaryDan offered to set up the medical kits for the basketball teams.
- Nicci asked about a master list for seasonal tasks. That way, parents and volunteers can sign up for tasks as they are signing up their kids.
- Rachael asked about helping her come up with a master schedule. Megan Lavik said that she could help.

7. Overview of new programs

- a. Art Club at TES was running as a TES program; now it is a Rec. program.
- b. Lego Club.
- c. Indoor Pickleball can be played at TES, but we need to find a good place to store the equipment.
- d. Playgroup with programming.
- e. Mud Season Madness has not been running in a few years. Rachael is excited to try to bring it back as a Rec. Program.

8. Bridge reopening celebration

- When the bridge reopens, people would have the opportunity to earn raffle tickets for money spent in their business.
- Then people would take their raffle tickets and place them in different baskets for different prizes.
- Then names for winners would be drawn.
- Joe and Charlotte wondered if this really fits as a Rec. event.
- Rachael thought it might initially have been an event, and therefore more Rec. related, but then it morphed.

9. Any New Business (Charlotte)
 - Nate asked if there would be alternative programming on ski days (for kids who didn't want to ski).
 - Rachael thought that was a good idea and will think about it and talk about it with people.
10. Next Meeting (Charlotte). We'll send out a Doodle Pool about an early December Meeting.
11. Adjourned at 7:23

Recreation Advisory Council
June 20, 2024

Members present: Stacy Barton, Nate Hill, Joe Deffner, Charlotte Rutledge, Nicci Maynard, Brent Mellen, Megan Lavik, Rachael Cook.

Absent: Andy McGovern, Mary Dan Pomeroy

Meeting called to order at 7:07.

1. Approval of Minutes from [May 1, 2024 Meeting](#) (Charlotte)
 - Charlotte moved to approve.
 - Nicci seconded.
 - Minutes approved.
2. Follow up to Parent/Athlete/Rec. Director Meeting and Expectations going forward. (Rachael)
 - Rachael reviewed the disciplinary situation.
 - Student has not written the letter (the outcome of the meeting).
 - Consensus is that if he doesn't write the letter, he doesn't play in the fall.
 - The letter should include an apology to teammates, and the importance of Respect. The important thing here is that regardless of what he intended, people were hurt. Because he hurt his teammates, he needs to apologize.

- Going forward, we want to include an addition to the parent/athlete agreement that denotes a 5-game suspension for this type of offense. If there is a second offense, their participation in Thetford Rec. is terminated.

3. Summer leagues (Rachael)

- Softball summer team is being raised by the individual coach, and she is doing the organizing by herself.
- Stacy provided some context—you used to be able to use the TA fields for free. But then TA started charging.
- But if an activity is done through Rec, you can use the fields for free.
- Rachael asked if it isn't open to everyone, and if it's not organized by Rec., then is it really a Rec program?
- Consensus is that going forward, this will not be a Rec. Program.

4. Defining Town Recreation Activities (Rachael)

- Thetford based
- Open to everyone
- Thetford residents given priority for sign-ups.
- No Tryouts

5. Revisiting Baseball (Cal Ripken)

- Stacy agreed that unless it's required, it's not worth the effort to have Rookies and T-Ball in Cal Ripken.
- Stacy will follow up and make sure that it's not an all or nothing scenario—in other words, she will make sure that you don't have to have your Rookies and T-Ball in Cal Ripken as a requirement of having your older kids in the league.
- Nate added that if you can get T-Ball and Rookies out of Cal Ripken, then more people can help (without all the detailed coaching requirements).
- Nicci pointed out that that's actually the age when you need more helpers.

6. Town Softball Tournament (Joe)

- Looking for teams.

- Rachael requested the announcement of the softball tourney from Joe.

7. Any New Business (Charlotte)

- Question of who might be able to paint lines on the field for the Challenger Soccer Camp (a Rec Program).
- Rachael will keep looking for someone to paint the lines.

8. Next Meeting (Charlotte)

- August 21st @7:00

9. Adjourn

Recreation Advisory Council

May 1, 2024

Members present: Nicci Maynard, Brent Mellen, Charlotte Rutledge, Joe Deffner, Megan Lavik

1. Participant Conduct Policy

- Rachael emphasized keeping it simple and something that would be short enough that folks would actually read.
- Joe commented that he wondered if it would make sense for the policy to limit warnings to one.
- Rachael asked if the level of warning be different for youth versus adult—i.e. An adult should know better and so would only get one warning.
- Brent suggested that maybe discretion could be used in applying the appropriate number of warnings based on the person's age.
- Rachael also wondered if the "Respect in Rec." preamble to the policy would be good to read before games.

- Charlotte suggested sending it with the pre-season communication that goes out from coaches.
- Rachael also wondered about posting the policy at Treasure Island. There was broad support for that.
- Rachael will work with Town Manager, Brian Story, to consider the council's suggestions and draft what they think makes sense. Ultimately, it's their decision and we are just here to advise.

2. Planning for Next Year's Budget

A. Cal Ripken

- Cal Ripken has a lot of rules for parent participation, and a lot of requirements around
paying dues in order to be covered by insurance.
- In our case, however, Brian said that town insurance would cover situations that might
emerge.
- Rachael wondered about pulling Rookies and T-ball out of Cal Ripken—primarily
because of cost and the ability to do it on our own.
- You would still be able to play games, but you wouldn't have the restrictions of
background checks (Brian said there is a mechanism to do our own) and other expenses.
- Megan observed that Rookie games are important, but as long as we don't lose the
opportunity to play those games, it would be fine not to be part of Cal Ripken at that
Level. (The upper levels would remain part of Cal Ripken.)
- Nicci also pointed out that travel for Rookies can be far and not necessarily logical—like
going to Rochester.
- Joe suggested we double check with Nate, Andy, and Stacy, who have been doing baseball for awhile, just to make sure that we aren't

missing anything and that we wouldn't lose anything by pulling T-ball and Rookies from Cal Ripken.

B. Hours for Rachael/Friends of Rec.

- There is much to do, and much that Rachael would like to do.
- What she needs to do is more than a 20 hour per week job.
- This is one of the reasons Rachael wondered about a "Friends of Rec." (fundraising) group.
- Brent asked what it would take to increase the Rec. budget.
- Joe suggested Rachael document what she spent her hours on each week, and also the work that she didn't get to each week (that she would have liked to have gotten to).
- Then the Rec Council could make a recommendation to the Selectboard in terms of increasing the Rec. Budget.
- In terms of Friends of Rec. we'll look at other ways for folks to donate, perhaps a tab that someone can select on the website.
- Rachael will explore this (and other ideas around fundraising) with Brian.

C. New Business

- Rachael asked for recommendations on who might be able to build a baseball batter's box template.
- Joe suggested speaking with Andy McGovern
- Brent reported that the Thetford Trails Team now has the Upper Valley Trails Alliance as a fiscal sponsor
- There is an agreement between Upper Valley Mountain Biking Association and UVD (Army Corps) to maintain trails in Union Village.
- There is also an agreement between the Thetford Trails Team to have two members represented on the Upper Valley Mountain Biking Association.

D. Next Meeting June 19th

E. Minutes were approved of March 7th

Recreation Advisory Council

March 7, 2024

Members present: *Nathan Hill, Andy McGovern, Brent Mellen, Charlotte Rutledge, Joe Deffner, Rachael Cook*

Guests: *Nicci Maynard, Mary Dan Pomeroy, Liba Hladik, Megan Lavik, Jonas Cole*

1. **Welcome prospective new members** (Joe and Charlotte)
 - Charlotte invited new members to introduce themselves.
 - Nicci Maynard, Mary Dan Pomeroy, and Megan Lavik introduced themselves and explained their interest in the Rec. Council
2. **Parent conduct policy** (Rachael Cook)
 - Rachael explained the background to the need for the policy: bad behavior by some parents in Lyme.
 - Rachael expressed an interest in a clean, simple, clear-cut, and effective policy.
 - The question is how do you enforce a policy; she doesn't want the coaches to have to do enforcement.

- She would like to be able to say to coaches that if behavior is unacceptable, they can pull their team from the field/court, etc.
- Nate pointed out that it is easier to enforce in some venues—like a basketball game—than in others (like soccer fields, and baseball fields).
- Mary Dan, there needs to be an interim step—a warning for behavior that doesn't rise to the level of removal, but needs to be a warning.
- Next Steps:** Rachael is going to draft a policy and work with Brian to confirm what we can and can not do in terms of enforcement.

3. **Running/Hiking Group** (guest, Liba Hladik)

- Liba is interested in creating a group that might get together periodically to walk/run/hike
- Rachael said that she is working on a survey to gauge interest in ideas like this
- She will send it out this weekend and then we'll be able to see who is interested in doing what and help those groups form

4. **Approval of [minutes from January 29 meeting](#)** (Joe and Charlotte)

- Brent moved to approve the minutes.
- Charlotte seconded.
- Motion passed.

5. **Meeting Schedule** (Joe and Charlotte)

- Every other month feels good to people in terms of cadence.
- First Wednesday of every other month.
- 7:00 will be the meeting time.
- Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 1st.

6. **VT Bike and Brew resident's discount day** (Jonas Cole, guest)

- Jonas joined us at 7:50.
- Jonas asked what our charge is as the Rec. Advisory Council.
- Jonas is proposing a discount for Thetford residents.

- Weekend in May for Thetford Residents (Thetford locals day).
- Another idea would be community rides for Thetford residents, e-bikes, 5 or 10 miles, say “hey” to your neighbors.
- Rachael mentioned that there is interest in having a day when Treasure Island is free. She wondered if we might have a Thetford kind of day where we have free or discounted activities.
- Rachael also suggested maybe the library could have coupons for Thetford Residents, etc.
- Jonas is amenable to that.
- Jonas is interested in making a full weekend of Thetford—not just one day.
- Rachael and Jonas can work out the details with input from Brian around insurance, etc.

7. Other Business

- Rachael expressed a concern that Rec. Director is not a 20-hour-a-week position.
- There are a lot of meetings that she wants to attend, and she does (because she is learning so much).
- But she is so far over her hours that she is pushing them into the next week and is always behind.
- The new budget will not be planned until November.
- Joe suggested tracking hours so you can demonstrate a need for increased hours.
- Charlotte suggested tracking what programs you want to create, too, so that you can also demonstrate a need for additional hours.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**Recreation Advisory Council
January 29, 2024**

Members present: Brent Mellen, Charlotte Rutledge, Joe Deffner, Stacy Barton, Rachael Cook

1. Minutes of last meeting

- Brent moved to approve minutes
- Charlotte seconded
- Minutes approved by vote

2. Nominate and approve new co-chairs for the Advisory Council.

- Stacy nominated Joe and Charlotte as co-chairs.
- Brent seconded.
- Minutes approved by vote.

3. Renewal of terms for two members.

- Tabled for now.

4. Vacancies on the Advisory Council.

- Stacy pointed out that a number of members might be looking to step off in the not-too-distant future, due to the fact that their children are aging out of current Thetford Rec activities.
- Discussion of the process for adding new members to the Rec. Advisory Council.
- Joe will follow up with selectboard and town manager for clarification about the process.
- Joe and Charlotte will follow up to see whether current members whose terms are up want to continue.
- Suggested recruiting strategies, TEN, elementary school parents, Treasure Island representation.

5. Update from the Rec. Director.

- Started work right before basketball. Went to meeting with other towns to set up basketball schedules. People were very helpful.

- Then had to find coaches for the season. The 5th/6th girls at TES recruited and found their own coaches.
- Coaches have worked out well.
- 5/6 Girls wanted to get better at basketball, but didn't want to play games.
- These 6 girls have been able to do something physical and it's been nice to tailor it to exactly what they wanted to have.
- Other Rec. Directors have been really helpful to Rachel.
- Skiing has been running smoothly, despite the weather.
- Stacy passed along a compliment that she heard from another parent. The parent appreciated Rachael being there on the first day of skiing and added that she is doing a great job.
- Rachael went to meeting for Cal Ripken. Stacy was there and is happy to help Rachael navigate baseball.
- Rachael is also working on a survey to the town to see what recreation activities are of interest - she's looking to expand recreation offerings to age groups beyond elementary school and to the broader Thetford population in general.

6. Anticipated needs for the upcoming baseball/ softball season.

- Stacy offered to continue to be a resource for Rachael as the baseball season unfolds.
- Rachael wants to understand some of the terms around baseball—Cal Ripken, fall ball, “U” teams, etc.
- Stacy pointed out the kids who are qualified and can help with umpiring
- Rachael sent out a Doodle Poll to baseball folks so that she can meet with them and so they can share more about the baseball world with her.

7. New Business.

A. Family Center Idea

- Rachael shared that she wanted to eventually create a family center in Thetford that would focus on activities for young families.
- She feels that the two roles would work well together, with the family center serving a specific population and the Recreation position serving a larger/broader population.
- Her working name for it is the Kindred Village Center.

B. Challenger Program is booked and space reserved for the summer. Rachael is advertising through the Rec. Dept.

C. Joe mentioned that it would be good if summer ball games played away on Tuesdays so as not to conflict with summer fun runs at Thetford Academy every Tuesday.

D. Circus Camp is at TES in February (break). Unfortunately, sign-ups are not robust. One concern that Rachel has is that the cost seems high. She is feeling a little conflicted about pushing a program that is so expensive. Stacy and Charlotte suggested that one of the reasons sign-ups might be low is because camp was announced kind of late and families probably already made plans. We should continue to pursue this opportunity and not let low numbers deter the program from offering the camp in future years.

E. Stacy asked about whether we would have meetings on a regular basis—quarterly? Monthly? Joe and Charlotte will discuss. Wednesday was the preferred day of the week in the past.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Deffner
Recreation Advisory Council Co-chair

Recreation Advisory Council
September 19, 2023

Members present: Brian Story, Charlotte Rutledge, Stefanie Gulick, Stacy Barton, Andy McGovern, Nate Hill, Brent Mellen, Joe Deffner

Agenda:

1. New Recreation Director
2. Other business

Meeting commenced at 7:36pm

1. New Recreation Director

- Amy Fahey has given her notice and will be done soon
- What are we looking for in a new Recreation Director?
- Challenges with the current position: Hours fluctuate GREATLY from week to week, lack of communication (challenging for someone who also has a full time job), ideal candidate will be someone who is looking for part time work.
- We are an advisory board, so we have no authority. We can't make decisions.
- Brian would like RAC to set policy, and the Rec Director is the one who implements them. Rec Director has a role, with autonomy, but shared responsibility.
- Role for volunteers, lots of opportunities. Brian thinks it is important for the Rec Director to work with the RAC, use to develop volunteer opportunities.

- We need to do an accounting of time; we can't ask someone to do more hours of work than is allotted. Can't do that this year (due to the budget), but perhaps we can discuss in the future.
- We should also review the hourly rate in order to attract a high quality candidate.
- Job description needs to be revised: Thetford Youth Sports is not an entity.
- Line by line revision of the job description with feedback from RAC
- Brian hopes to post this job description by the end of the week.
- Brian would like volunteers from RAC to do interviews. Joe has volunteered; if anyone else would like to volunteer, please email Brian.
- Thoughts or questions? Send to Brian.
- Job will be posted in the local paper, DOTC and the ListServ. Brian will leave posted as open until filled. Hope to interview candidates in the next two weeks.

2. Other business

- Brian wants to be in touch with us and get us a new chair soon.
- Soccer jamboree? Stacy is happy to organize if someone wants to be there on the day.
 - i. Let's continue to discuss.
 - ii. Will reach out to Amy to determine the coach of 1/2 soccer and go from there.
- Ski Program - Directors were Lisa Harmon and Dave Lloyd. Stacy can reach out to Dave and ask about the plans for this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29

Recreation Advisory Council

November 30, 2022

Attendees: Andy McGovern, Joe Deffner, Nate Hill, Brent Mellen, Charlotte Rutledge, Tippi Oshoniyi, Dave Lloyd

1. Ski Program
2. Fall Sports wrap up
3. Basketball
4. Ski Sale?
5. Community offerings
6. Policies/Planning
7. Coaches

1. Ski Program

- Dave and Lisa Harmon have volunteered for several years for the ski program
 - Would like to meet with Amy in the next week to discuss roles and responsibilities for what they should do v. what the rec director does
 - Goals: Want to develop an operations plan to hand off to future rec directors and ski coordinators. Want to foster a fun, safe environment that supports volunteers and retention.
 - Want to secure a good participant/instructor ratio
 - Working with other parents to develop a program handbook - covers participant expectations, guidance for coaches (may seem routine, but needs to be restated) and guidance for lodge parents
 - May see record numbers in registration this year, since school will not be offered on Friday afternoons.
 - If we don't have enough volunteers, how will we handle that? Cancel the program? Waitlist?
 - Bernice has asked rec to come up with an alternative for kids

who don't want to ski, however, that is too short notice and not enough volunteers.

- Amy has guidance written that will be out by Friday morning (12/2) including ski dates, guidance, rules, etc. Dave and Lisa are willing to help with soliciting volunteers.
- Amy will also post on the listserv for ski instructions.
- Historically, first year skiers need to have a parent at the ski-way for at least the three weeks.
- Group thoughts: If we need to make reduce the size of the program, perhaps we do the following:
 - Limit by grade
 - Put on a waitlist
 - Can we put out a notice to let people know that they MAY not be able to participate as soon as possible?
 - Deadline for registration for ski Fridays is 12/16. Is this enough time for parents to make an alternate plan?
 - Last year there were 122 participants and 20 volunteers
 - Disclaimer to go into the email announcing the ski program regarding size limit and parent involvement for first timers.
 - There is a liability coverage question - Amy will look into it and ask the ski way and town manager.
- Next steps: Amy, Dave and Lisa will find a time to meet offline.
-

2. Fall sports wrap up:

- Lots of numbers in soccer, at the young grades and $\frac{3}{4}$.
- 1/2 Jamboree was a success, will work on details in futures years
- 5/6 girls did not play in Thetford, but they did play on a girls team in Lyme.
- Need to figure out how to get the right size T-shirt via MyRec.
- Could we get better uniforms for a bit higher price? Something to consider.
- The reason we went to t-shirts is because people did not return their uniform.
- Cross country: All registrations through TA. ~10 TES students participated.

- Mtn. Bike Club: Season went well, there were 27 participants. Lots of great volunteers. $\frac{5}{6}$ volunteers and $\frac{7}{8}$ volunteers. But, the shirts were a challenge.

3. Basketball

- Coaches: Currently seeking coaches for $\frac{3}{4}$ boys, $\frac{3}{4}$ girls and $\frac{5}{6}$ boys. Lots of kids, but not a lot of people willing to coach/
 - 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ boys have signed up, one coach, but still need one more.
 - Could some of the stronger 4th grade players play on the $\frac{5}{6}$ boys team, which only have six kids right now?
 - Does this pull them away from building a core with their peers?
 - Concerns about socio-emotional effects of this, and also about setting a precedent.
 - Could we use squads? Current $\frac{3}{4}$ boys coach is not interested in squads; tried it last year and it was a challenge.
 - Difference between 4th and 6th grade, also lose an opportunity for 4th graders to develop leadership.
 - That still leaves $\frac{3}{4}$ boys with no coach, and potentially 15 kids.
 - Could parents co-op the coaching position?
 - Could we reach out to Dartmouth to find some coaches?
 - Curtis Richardson would be willing to coach $\frac{3}{4}$ girls if no one steps up.
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ boys had practice, 6 other parents were there last night, one 3rd grade parent may be willing to step up.
 - Amy will reach out to Strafford for any kiddos looking to play.
 - There are six $\frac{3}{4}$ girls signed up. There is a parent willing to help, but is not ready to coach.
 - We will need to reach out to people in our networks.

4. Ski Sale

- There is not a ski sale this year. Nico Horster reached out to help organize. Group that was contacted stated that it was a lot of work, easier to get

equipment than it used to be. Time would be better spent doing a fund-raiser. There is gear still in the garage at TI.

- Raised \$1500-2000 annually.
- If a family applies for a scholarship, they also get their skis for free at Dartmouth.

5. Community offerings

- Kickboxing class on the common in late September. Well attended. Offering a second round, morning and evening sessions. Dwindling a bit, but still doing okay. Two teachers have expressed interest so Rec will cover that for free. For now, offered only to TES faculty.

6. Policies/Planning

- We need a policy in place for how to choose coaches and to have guidelines around coaching behavior.
- Next Steps:

7. Motion to approve minutes: Brent. Second: Andy.

8. Stacy Barton will be stepping down from the Chair position. A new chair is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21

Recreation Advisory Council

Date: August 15, 2022

Members Present: Andy McGovern, Brent Mellen, Charlotte Rutledge, Stacy Barton, Bryan Gazda, Amy Fahey

Agenda:

- Membership Update
- Description and Charge of Recreation Advisory Council
- Community Survey
- Exercise Class on the Green
- Treasure Island Update
- Fall Sports
- Pickleball
- Uniforms

1. Minutes from April approved.

2. Membership Update

- Megan Dubuque has retired from RAC

3. Description and Charge of Recreation Advisory Council:

- Current charge: The charge for the Recreation Advisory Council (shall be) “to inventory, research, and promote recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages.”
- It would be great to offer opportunities to people of all ages
- Is the lack of facilities (fields, etc.) a limitation?
- Amy gets lots of emails about offering other programs for adults and kids. Example: work out on the green. Currently we prioritize K-6.
- We could offer many more things, but it would need to be a discussion about the number of hours for the Recreation Director.
- If the hours of the Rec. Director are increased, do we have the facilities to accommodate that?
- Exercise on the Green: \$45 flat rate and people pay when they attend. 10-15 people.
- Currently a 20 hour per week position.

- Visitors: Does this mean non-residents? Language should be tweaked a bit?
- What is happening with the TI committee?
- Possible update: The charge for the Recreation Advisory Council (shall be) “to inventory, research, and promote recreation opportunities for the community.
- Currently the Rec Director works between 18-24 hours per week.
 - Can we come up with different structures to help with the workload?

4. Community Survey:

Amy spoke with Bryan briefly; do we want to send out a survey to see what folks would want to see at Treasure Island? Tennis? Basketball? Pickleball? What else could we use the court for? Should we get it lined? Before we do that, it would be great to have an idea of what people want to see there?

- Should we categorize? Leisure, youth sport, adult sport?
- Important to know that we CAN put requests in (financially), and knowing will help with the budgeting process.
- Amy will put together a survey and send it out for review.

5. Exercise Class on the Green:

Should we offer this? Green next to the Community building: Bryan would like to run this by the Selectboard first. It is a park and the selectboard has purview. Green on Thetford Hill: Need to talk to the Thetford Hill Committee.

6. Treasure Island Update:

- Gone well this summer, not had to close very often
- Lots of upkeep done: plants, bathrooms painted.
- Swim lessons: \$2,000 more in revenue from last year.
- Many compliments on lifeguards, staff have been fabulous. Will need more lifeguards next year, but gate people are great.
 - We pay for half in the first year, and pay the full amount the second year.
- New buoys and restrung rope lines.
- Still need ADA compliant bathrooms.

- The TI Exploratory committee is working on these things.
- Makes sense to have a co-committee meeting with TI Exploratory and Rec. Rec could supplement some of the activities they are looking to offer.
- VINS and Montshire were not able to come - they did not have staff. Still have library story hour on Tuesdays and added Nature Journaling on Thursdays.
- Shoreland Protection Act - do not want to see the footprint of cleared areas increased.

7. Fall Sports:

- Fall baseball is starting soon.
 - Minors: 11 registered.
 - Majors: 3 registered.
- Soccer
 - 11 registered in PreK - K
 - 18 registered in 1/2
 - 3 registered in 3/4 girls
 - 10 registered in 3/4 boys
 - 2 registered in 5/6 girls
 - 9 registered in 5/6 boys
 - Coaching: One person is interested in PreK/K
- Cross Country:
 - Invitation is extended to 5% students at TES to participate in running
- Bike Club: Will be offered again this year. Based on the availability of adults and work around the soccer schedule. Will commit to dates once the soccer schedule is set. Age range is 1st-6th. Three groups based on age/ability. Having it after school is helpful for people.

8. Pickleball:

Basketball court at TI has temporary lines for pickleball. Working on signage for the rules, and Amy is lending her set for the year to see if people are interested. Online schedule telling folks when a court is available. We are going to charge \$2 a person to play.

9. Uniforms:

This year we went to the T shirts, and the uniforms used were older and stained/ripped. Should we wear official uniforms or stick with t-shirts?

Consensus was the stick with T-shirts.

10. Soccer Meeting:

Amy will send out a soccer coaches meeting once the coaches are identified.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Recreation Advisory Council

Date: April 6, 2022

Members Present:

Brent Mellen, Joe Deffner, Andy McGovern, Megan Dubuque, Charlotte Rutledge, Nate Hill, Stacy Barton, Amy Fahey (Rec Coordinator), Bryan Gazda (Town Manager), Stefanie Gulick

Agenda:

- Winter Sports final wrap up
 - Baseball
 - Softball
 - Baseball field lease
 - Softball tournament - tentative date of July 9
 - Basketball Clinics
 - Soccer Camps
 - Treasure Island
 - Recreation Programming
-
1. Approve Minutes from 2/17/22
J. Deffner moved that minutes **be approved and they were.**

 2. Winter Sports Updates (from Amy)
 - Skiing went well
 - Basketball went well. A couple of minor incidents.
 - 3/4 wound up being co-ed. Three squads--two squads per game.

 3. Spring Sports
 - Baseball---Majors and Minors and rookie teams.
 - Two Softball Teams--12 on Majors, 10 on Minors, 23 in T-ball.

- Some towns were pulling out and forming their own league. We decided not to switch to this

league as it was too late in the game.

- If we decided to switch next year, we will be up front about it from the outset.

- Looking for a rookies coach.

Softball will practice from 5:30 to 7:00; Rookies could practice after school until 5:30.

- Marilyn Cook got in touch about leasing the baseball field. Stacy will put her in touch with

Marilyn.

- Discussion of adding a batting cage to the field is under way.

- Interest in a running club--17 kids expressed interest.

4. Summer Activities

- Softball Tourney on July 9th

- Curtis Richardson would like to run some basketball clinics for youth.

- Challenger Soccer Camp will happen in late June.

- Soren Smith also offered to schedule a soccer clinic, too.

5. Treasure Island

- Gathering applications

- Working with Mary Dan Pomeroy who is Rec. Director in Bradford. Would like to partner to offer swimming lessons to Bradford kids.

- Applications are coming in for various Treasure Island positions, including some returning staff.

6. Rec. Programming

- Babe Ruth in the summer. Last summer we had agreed that we weren't going to offer programs outside of 1-6 grades.

- We have allowed 7th graders who are 12 to play on the baseball team, the b-ball clinics---Curtis wants to offer them to the older kids, we're organizing the adult softball team.

- So whatever we decide, we need to be consistent.
- Do we support adult sports? We already coordinate Sunday basketball.
- 13-15 year olds would be allowed to play Babe Ruth.
- Do all the 13-15 years olds need to be from Thetford? Amy is looking into whether or not they all have to be from Thetford.
- If we offer baseball, we should also offer softball. Absolutely, agreed.
- In terms of deciding who coaches, the question was raised how it is decided who coaches.
- Stacy asked: Do we have a policy in mind in terms of whether or not we want to offer opportunities for all ages?
- Bryan interjected that if we want to add programs, we run them by the selectboard. If we want to go beyond grades 1-6, we run it by the selectboard.

7. Basketball Court

- To be resurfaced this summer---Sara Ecker worked with the 6th grade last year to raise money and the money is there.
- Amy is working with the elementary school to determine whether hoops should be replaced; should it be two courts side to side, or two hoops side to side.
- Discussion of the fencing and should that be replaced.
- This year's current 6th grade parents might also be fundraising to finish this project.

8. Pump Track

- Brent reported that they are looking into refreshing the pump track and is working on it---reshaping it, possibly bringing in some clay, etc.
- Brent believes they have the cost covered through initial funding they secured through TASP.

Date: February 17, 2022

Members Present: Stefanie Gulick, Brent Mellen, Joe Deffner, Andy McGovern, Megan Dubuque, Charlotte Rutledge, Nate Hill, Stacy Barton, Amy Fahey (Rec Coordinator), Sara Cavin (community member)

1. Approval of December Minutes

2. Membership Update:

- Sara Ecker has retired from RAC. We thank her for her many years of service.
- Brent Mellen is now an official member of RAC. Welcome Brent!

3. Winter Sports Update:

- Skiing: 110 sign ups, things are going great!
 - Brent and Melissa Mellen have headed the many volunteers. Lots of logistics to start and keep going.
 - Two cancellations, TES principal has approved for March 4 and March 11 as potential make up days
 - Make up days: once surveys are back from volunteers, then Amy will approve the dates. March 4 will definitely be a make up date.
- Basketball
 - Has been going well, but has been tough with some COVID cancellations and challenging to reschedule games.
 - One incident with another team; need to put policies in place to assuage in the future
 - By and large, folks were good with the two fans per player rule
 - Should we have a rec representative at games?

4. Spring sports

- Baseball
 - Registrations are set to open. Still happy to go with Cal Ripken? Yes - best option for the kids.
 - Meeting on February 27 for coordinators.
 - We will be tight on players at the 12u level, we should work on recruiting players from Strafford

- Will players from Lyme be allowed to play for us? It will be up to Lyme and not Thetford. Three families that wanted to play last year. Lyme made those families stay because there was a 12u team.
- Kids in grade 2 who want to play on a Cal Ripken minor league team, but are not allowed in their town because of age.
- Tunbridge kids who go to Open Fields and want to play in Thetford? Will that be allowed? They have played in Thetford for a long time.
- Need to set up a time to go through all of the baseball equipment. Need to do so ASAP. Line paint on order. Bats? Catcher's gear?
- Softball
 - Michelle Stanley is the softball coordinator for the league
 - She thinks there will be enough players for a 10u and 12u team.
 - Softball day on April 24.
- Running Club?
 - Would be a great thing to have for kids who are not interested in team sports
 - Could we find a volunteer to coach?
 - Amy will send an email out to the Rec List
- Mtn Biking
 - Too wet in the spring in Thetford

5. Potential Community activities in the spring/summer

- Ideas for outside activities that are not based on sports:
 - Flashlight tag
 - Outside movie in the summer
 - Are there ways that we can generate community based events that are not youth sports related
 - Let's generate a list of ideas of things that we could do

6. Treasure Island

- Just starting to think about help, planning orders, soliciting ideas for what people want at TI. Staying open later always becomes a staffing issue. Amy is open to ideas, but staffing has been a real challenge.

7. Afterschool & Summer Expanding Access Grants

- Opportunity to apply for some grant monies to provide opportunities for kids
- Could expand TASP potentially
- Letter of intent deadline is 2/22
- Greta Marchesi reached out about this opportunities. Amy will reach out to her to pursue this opportunity.

8. Softball Tournament this summer

- Joe is willing to organize this again
- Can make it bigger and better this year.
- Should we keep it on the same weekend this year? To discuss.

9. Soccer Camps

- Challenger Soccer Camp - dates are set
- Soren Smith will also offer some soccer camp opportunities

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Recreation Advisory Council

Date: 1 December 2021

Members Present: Stefanie Gulick, Brent Mellen, Joe Deffner, Andy McGovern, Megan Dubuque, Charlotte Rutledge, Stacy Barton, Amy Fahey (Rec Coordinator)

Time commenced: 7:02

- Approval of October Minutes
- Adult programs
 - a. Adult basketball and pickleball: gym usage
 - i. TES gym will be available on Sundays
 - ii. Is there a party willing to take on the responsibility for the key to TES? Sean Norton?
 - iii. No fee to play; just coordinate the gym time.
- Ski Sale
 - a. On hold for this year
 - b. Dartmouth skiway is going to offer free rentals to any skier who gets a scholarship
 - i. This offsets the profit made during the ski sale
 - c. Amy is creating a community swap webpage for people in town to exchange gear
- Winter sports
 - a. Basketball
 - i. Numbers are pretty low, impact from Covid perhaps
 1. $\frac{5}{6}$ boys team - 7 players
 2. $\frac{5}{6}$ girls team -13
 3. $\frac{3}{4}$ coed: 13
 4. $\frac{1}{2}$ coed: 12
 5. Kindergarten: 5
 - ii. Registration fee was \$10 less, but added a shirt fee.
 - iii. Scheduling games is slow, and sort of challenging. Trying to leave time between games in case of Covid outbreaks.

- iv. Spectators will be allowed for games only, two per player. Must sign in when coming to a game.
- v. Masks at all times
- vi. No eating in the gym

b. Ski Program

- i. ~70 registered to ski
 - 1. 28 have a season pass to Dartmouth
 - 2. 40 do not have passes
 - ii. Seeking volunteers as well. Will do a count.
 - iii. Gear rentals are low in the Upper Valley (maybe not at Dartmouth), but we should let
 - iv. First Friday in January will be the first ski day
 - v. Ends 7 weeks later (6 ski Fridays)
 - vi. Who is going to take on grouping the kids? That is not an easy job; we would need someone to help with that organization.
- Sign project
 - a. Signs have arrived, and we are waiting for the TA Outdoor Program to put them up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm

Recreation Advisory Council

Date: 20 October 2021

Members Present: Stefanie Gulick, Megan Dubuque, Joe Deffner, Nate Hill, Brent Mellen, Charlotte Rutledge, Sara Ecker, Stacy Barton, Andy McGovern, Amy Fahey (Rec Coordinator),

Others Present:

Time commenced: 7:02pm

1. Approval of August Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes, seconded.
- Minutes approved

2. Status of fall sports

- Soccer
 - Has gone well. Struggled for a girls coach at the 3/4 level, so they joined 5/6
 - High numbers and good participation.
- Cross Country
 - Middle school students have done a good job and enjoyed themselves. New coach Cole Chapman has done a wonderful job and brought a lot of energy to the position.
 - Does this belong in the Rec Program or should it stay at TA?
 - If Rec has a XC team would it diminish soccer numbers?
 - Going forward it probably makes sense to have a Rec Program. However, it has been nice to have kids be able to do both.
 - Can Thetford Rec help financially support the TA coaching position?
- Fall Baseball
 - 10u, 12u and 15u teams.
 - Played until last weekend.
- Mountain Biking
 - Three groups based on age and skill

- Four parent and two TA student volunteers
- Twenty participants
- Still going! Last one is scheduled for tomorrow and this weekend.
- COVID and fall sports
 - A number of positive cases have been discovered at TES
 - Up to five cases at TES; seems to be from a variety of sources
 - Contact tracing is not perfect
 - Fall sports have been cancelled for the week
 - Should we call it a season? There are cases, but it is low risk.
 - If there are cases that pop up that may make the decision for us.
 - Amy has been in steady communication from Susie Tann and Nurse Kate. Amy will communicate with us over the weekend to make a decision.
 - Cross country - 2/3 of the 5/6 grade in quarantine.
 - It would be really nice to have an “end of season hurrah” in some fashion

3. Winter Sports

- Basketball
 - Things are a bit up in the air
 - Amy has reached out to UVRA and other Rec Directors about what the plans are for basketball. No real answers yet. Holding off schedule games.
 - UVRA meeting is at the beginning of November, there will be more discussion then.
 - Amy asked Principal Mills if they would allow people in the school for basketball. She is obviously very busy right now.
 - May just be skills and drills for Thetford kids and no games.
 - Registration usually starts in November/December, games start in December or January.
 - Will wait to open registration until we have more information about what the season will look like.

- Send a rec-wide email update so families know what to expect.
- Ski Program
 - School releases kids at noon, they bus over to the skiway.
Parents volunteer their time to take small groups of kids skiing. Six groups a winter. First time skiers and K students must have a parent at the mountain at all times.
 - Not an instructional program, different ideas about how to get instruction.
 - For kids who don't ski, they can stay at the school and there are a variety of activities or they can go home.
 - Butler bus service will be available to take kids over to the skiway (one way bussing).
 - Principal Mills wants it to turn into a most of the day activity, not just noon on
 - Amy has called the skiway, but has not yet heard back. There is a new general manager.
 - Other planning to do: Bringing gear over to the skiway, etc.
 - Ski Sale: Amy will talk to TES about using the gym. Could it be moved online? That would make it challenging. Could we use the tent at school?
 - When should we have the sale? Usually the first weekend in December.
 - Might be worth asking Laurel Mackin for notes.
 - Any volunteers to help spearhead sale. Sara can be there to help the day of the sale, but can't do the prep work. Amy can do a majority of the prep work.

4. Pickleball

- Community member wants to bring pickleball for adults to Thetford. Indoor and outdoor courts.
- Recreation is open to adults, so this does fall under the umbrella for recreation activities in Thetford.
- Amy will continue to communicate with this person and

- Also inquiries about public basketball. Where would the space be for this activity?

5. TES Sign

- Surface of the sign is there (thanks to Andy and Liam McGovern)
- Order is being placed tomorrow.
- 2-3 weeks there will be an aluminum trail system sign in a kiosk at TES.
- One in a number of signs
- Mapmaker charged half her price, a donor paid the other half for the design work.
- Could the Rec Department pay the cost of the sign? \$195
 - Amy is confident that Rec will be able to find funding for this Rec used resource. Will talk with the town manager.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm

Recreation Advisory Council

Date: 17 August 2021

Members Present: Stacy Barton (Chair), Amy Fahey (Rec Coordinator), Megan Dubuque, Andy McGovern, Sara Ecker, Charlotte Rutledge.

Others Present: Bryan Garza (Town Mgr), Jolene Cadwell, Brent Cadwell.

Agenda

1. Approval of 5/19/2021 Minutes
2. U13 Fall Baseball Issue
3. Fall Youth Sports (Soccer, Cross Country, Baseball)
4. Pre-K Soccer
5. Treasure Island Update
6. Trails Team Update
7. Mountain Biking Program
8. 4th of July Softball Tournament results/update
9. School Signage Update

1. Approval of 5/19/2021 Minutes

- Motion to approve by Andy McGovern, Charlotte seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

2. U13 Fall Baseball Issue

- Rec created a fall baseball registration for a team for this age group
- Jolene and Brent Cadwell requested a second team be put through Rec
- Concern about this because it would set a precedent that people could put teams through Rec that weren't really Rec programs.
- Formation of a team outside of Rec, they want to go through Rec to avoid the fees charged by TA
- Bryan feels that we should not pull in a team to do this, even if a prior rec director had done this

- Offered to have all 20 kids who are registered in Rec to be split evenly on two teams, which would include the players from the 'new team'. No need for another coach.
- Disagreement about when registrations were due. One party believed rosters were due by the 14th, but registration through Thetford Rec was open through the 20th. Closed early without notice. After the registration was closed, Amy notified Brent that if others still wanted to sign up, to let her know and she would re-open the registration for a short period of time.
- Disagreement about deadline for rosters vs. charter and dues. One party argued that the only hard deadline for last week was for charter registration and dues. Rosters are not due until later this month.
- Cadwells have concerns about opportunities for kids. For years, Babe Ruth played at TA with no cost. That changed last year, so the team was registered through Rec. It was formed prior to registering through Rec.
- Nathan Maxwell made many decisions about baseball without Rec Advisory Committee input.
- TA charges \$175 to use the field for 3 hours, plus \$150 for lining the field.
- Nathan started the program last year, registration was open to anyone. Babe Ruth team was a Rivendell and Thetford team. Team was called Orange County Crushers. If more kids join the team, this is the team they would join.
- Why did Thetford join a different Babe Ruth league? Commissioner told them they had to join the other league, because we fall within a different boundary. Now that there was a revived Babe Ruth team, we had to go through TC. Went through the state process.
- Discussion about processes and specific teams available over the summer.
- There was one sign up link. Babe Ruth/Fall Ball link and Fall Ball/Summer team. For the kids who wanted to play summer and fall ball, they could continue. Some just played summer and some will just play fall. Registrations for these teams were put together all at the same time.
- Registration fees should be based on Resident and Non-Resident. That did not happen, which was a mistake.

- Last year, John Brown, head of Maintenance, told Nathan that as long as they were associated with Thetford Rec they would not have to pay the fees.
- There are no regional boundaries for fall ball. It does not need to be through a town. It is purely for fun. The team that was formed was formed through the kids, not the adults.
- Policy Issues:
 - This is not a new precedent, precedent was set last year.
 - Who coaches? How do we make that decision?
 - How do the teams get created if there is a need for more than one team at an age level?
- It is probably not a good idea to have any youth sports programs after grade six go through the Rec. Everyone agrees that Babe Ruth should not operate through Rec.
- Concern that policies shouldn't be made midstream; if issues arise all decisions should be made by consensus.
- Uniforms are paid for through the fees collected.

3. Fall Youth Sports (Soccer, Cross Country, Baseball)

- Soccer: Lots of registrations. Lots of shirts, but what do we want to do with uniforms? Not in a good place. Is there funding available for uniforms? Use the Paw Print shirts for K-2, buy new soccer uniforms this year. Look to the budget to confirm. Can we find a sponsor? Look into that. Soccer Swap Day? Maybe in Thetford Center, TES, TI?
- Should Open Fields students who do not live in Thetford be allowed to play through Thetford Rec? Decision made: Open Fields students can join Thetford program.
- Should players from other towns register for Thetford Rec if there is a team available in their own town? No, per UVRA.
- Cross Country - TA is offering cross country to 5th and 6th graders. Will not be offered through Rec.
- Baseball - There will be U10 and U12 fall baseball teams. Need to make a decision about whether or not rec will sponsor anything past U12.

- Softball - maybe U10, U12 and U14 softball teams. In the works. It would have to be on Sunday's only. Field availability may be an issue.

4. Pre-K Soccer

- A parent is interested in creating a pre-K soccer team. What about opening PreK-K team? Then have 1-2, etc.

5. Treasure Island Update

- Staffing has been a challenge, but Amy has been able to staff it through all of this week, and weekends through September 5th. Back to school hours from 3-7 if kids will come to work and it is warm. A group has expressed interest in keeping it open further.
- Conversation about moving the gate to give better access.

6. Trails Team Update - TTT continues to operate as an ad-hoc committee as we continue to look into becoming a separate town committee with liaisons on related committees (rec, conservation, selectboard).

7. Mountain Biking Program - Brent has pitched a fall mountain biking program to Amy for grades 1-6. She is interested in it. Brent is working on gathering parent volunteers, and will try to avoid overlap with soccer times, so also waiting to see that schedule firm up. The program is still in the planning phase at this point, but Brent is optimistic that there will be enough parent and, maybe TA student, volunteers.

8. 4th of July Softball Tournament results/update

- Winner was Thetford Center Team - Hastings Team.
- Over \$1000 was collected through entry fees, donations and "passing the hat."
- Any suggestions for next year?
 - Food truck
 - School group selling food
 - Could it be the weekend before or after 4th of July weekend

- Couple of nights in a row, and then the finals another day?
- Double elimination?

9. School Signage Update

- Andy McGovern is going to finish framing it in.
- Joe has been working with the map maker all summer (to include an in-person meeting last week) and they are close to having a final product. Then it will go to the sign company for printing on an aluminum sign. It should look nice and be durable.
- A little money might be needed from the Rec. Dept to cover the cost of the sign, but it shouldn't be too much.

Action Items:

- Policy planning meeting needs to be scheduled to address some of the issues from this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Recreation Advisory Council

Date: 19 May 2021

Members Present: Brent Mellen, Stefanie Dyke, Stacy Barton (Chair), Joe Deffner, Megan Dubuque, Amy Fahey (Rec Director),

Agenda

1. Approval of 2/17/21 Minutes
2. Elementary School Signage
3. Trails Alliance Update
4. Treasure Island Update
5. July Village Softball Tournament
6. Spring Sports Update
7. Summer Programming

1. Approval of 2/17/21 Minutes

Joe Deffner moved to approve. Stefanie seconded. Minutes approved.

2. Elementary School Signage

Joe gave an update about the sign progress at TES. He's working With a mapmaker that John Morton has used in the past. He hopes to have a map in place sometime this summer.

3. Trails Alliance Upd

Stacy recommended that Brent become a member of the Rec. Committee. Sharon Harkay thought that we might have to make a motion of some sort about this.

4. Treasure Island Update

Megan gave an update about the Treasure Island workday this weekend.

Plan is to make it presentable for Memorial Day Weekend.

Looking for lifeguards to be able to conduct swim lessons. Some lifeguards have been hired, but they have to be 16 or older to actually give swim lessons.

Working with Lakewise to reduce the phosphorous level in the lake--possibly closing the bathroom on the island to help with this.

5. July Village Softball Tourney

Enthusiasm is growing. Charlie has started the smack talk.

There will be a Thetford Center Team, Joe is committed to a team, Charlie Buttrey is also committed to a team, and there might a Thetford Hill Team.

6. Spring Sports Update

Couple of Rookie Games

Lots of kids playing Minors -- -positive effort and attitude (15 kids)

Majors---(12-15 kids)---diverse skill set. Playing really well. Coaches have been great. Kids are happy.

Stefanie looking into a batting cage. The fire department owns part of the land, so trying to get permission there.

Softball and T-ball are going well.

7. Summer Update

Amy working on a skills and drills camp for girls, and trying to get the same for boys.

Challenger Soccer. Amy doesn't think using the gym as a shelter will be a problem.

Lightning Soccer will use the fields at TES, but we're not responsible.

Babe Ruth baseball will be up and running, too.

Rec. Advisory Committee Meeting

April 15, 2021

Present: Andy McGovern, Nate, Hill, [Charlotte Rutledge](#), Sara Ecker, Joe Deffner Sharon Harkay (Selectboard), Brent Mellen (Guest), Stacy Barton (late)

A. Brent Mellen (guest) representing the The Thetford Trails Team spoke about their focus on the Union Village (Army Corps) land.

Things have been coming together with the Army Corps to get the trails mapped and recognized. Army Corps is looking to sign an agreement with the Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association. But the Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association would like to sign an agreement with a local group. This is where the Rec Comm. comes in.

Sharon Harkay said that the Thetford Trails Team coming under the auspices of the Rec Comm. might need Selectboard approval.

The Trails Committee could potentially become a subset of the Rec. Committee, or have a liaison from the Trails Committee be part of the Rec Committee.

Amy asked what the Thetford Trails Team might need from the Rec. Comm.

Brent said that they don't really need anything and have been operating on their own for awhile.

Brent said that the Army Corps wants signage on the trails for safety--that would be the short term work. The longer term goal might be putting some events together.

B. Amy introduced herself

Had worked for Rivendell and gotten their program going.

- Baseball is up and running.

- She's visited Treasure Island.
- Looking for a Beach Manager
- Setting up events throughout the summer--librarian visit, Chief Evans visit, possible fish and game.
- Looking to reclaim trails and possibly set up signage.

C. Question about state guidelines and one family who is playing with a Thetford

Baseball team is refusing to test.

- The consensus is that they aren't complying with state guidelines.
- The family can file a complaint if they want to.
- We're standing by the requirement to test within 3 days of returning.
- We'll post something on the website that we are following the state guidelines.

D. Winter Bingo

- Kudos to Stacy for organizing
- About 25 families participated in it.

E. 4th of July Softball Tournament

- Joe floated the idea of a town-wide (by village) softball tournament.
- Amy likes the idea and is willing to help.

F. 6th Grade Gift

- Sprucing up the basketball court at TES is something the 6th grade class would like to do.
- Are there any funds from the Rec. Dept.
- The class is going to raise money for some of it.

G. Sara will be stepping down/Stacy will be coming on as Chair

- Thank you Sara.
- Welcome Stacy

Recreation Advisory Council

Date: 17 February 2021

Members Present: Sara Ecker, Joe Deffner, Megan Dubuque, Andy McGovern, Nate Hill, Stacy Barton, Sharon Harkay, Brent Mellen

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm, conducted via Zoom

1. Approval of December 16 Minutes

2. Brent Mellen - Thetford Trails Team Proposal to Join Recreation

- Part of Thetford Trails Team
- Larger goal: Pull together some of the trails throughout Thetford for access, for community members, students, etc. for multi use recreation. Look to connect different parts of town, connect to other towns. Currently focused on the UVD/TA area - bunch of trails. Trails at TA are very well marked, used, etc, but there are many others around town that are not in that state.
- Working with Army Corps, State Park, TA and land owners to do a natural resources inventory.
- Ad-Hoc Group and need a more official or formal place - Could this become a subgroup of the Rec Committee
- RAC could help by giving an official designation for the group. If agreements come into play, it would be great to have a town backed entity.
- There could be a liaison between the two groups. Q: Would someone from the Mountain Biking current group be willing to join the RAC committee? There is currently an opening. A: Brent is willing to join. Programming could also become a part of the Rec Committee.
- Q: Would this add to the Rec Director's job description or would the subcommittee cover the duties entailed with this addition? A: Probably not a lot of additional duties for the new Rec Director.
- Aligns with our new mission statement to grow recreation programming in Thetford.
- Concern regarding being charged with the upkeep of the trails system.

- Maintenance plans would need to be discussed, but would need to happen.
- Next steps: Keep talking, if someone from the group joins RAC that might help facilitate that movement.

3. Rec Director Job Update

- Two applicants. Both are quite qualified. Another applicant for just the summer job at Treasure Island.
- At twenty hours a week, which includes Treasure Island, is an underestimate. Given the current job description this seems difficult.
- May have both a Rec Coordinator (change in position title) and Beach Manager job in the town budget.
- Hopeful there is someone in place by the spring to help with baseball.
- Q: What is needed before we can move on with the candidates? A: Still firming up the job description, budget and what happens with TI.
- Q: Idea of a Rec Director position that has more hours in the summer to cover TI? A: yes, there may be wiggle room.
- When COVID goes away, there will be a lot more for the Rec Director to do.

4. Treasure Island Update:

- Will TI open on time? Hopefully!
- Playground is outdated as of this year, either needs to be replaced or just pulled out.
- Open through recs from Park and Rec of Vermont
- Runs at a 25k-50k deficit each year.

5. Winter sports

- Basketball is not happening, OESU - no access to the gym
- A bit more has opened through VT for rec departments, but because we don't have our own gym we cannot access basketball this year.
- Bradford is trying to organize skills and drills for 6th graders through the school. Maybe TES would be willing to do this?

- Winter BINGO - Well received, 25 families have signed up. Need collect for the larger and token gifts.
- Norwich has also offered a variety of programs and are happy to include Thetford families
 - Pop up cross country skiing events. Advertising through TES and the Facebook page.

6. Spring sports

- Baseball: Central Vermont League. Looking for our numbers for players by March. May try to open registration on MyRec page or at least have a survey for numbers. Need to register teams in advance.
 - Need to start thinking about coaches.
 - Probably one-two 12U team, one 10U team, one rookie team and one tee-ball team
 - There are 7th graders that are eligible to play as well.
 - Sara will look into opening MyRec
- Softball? There are not many numbers, but there could be a program.
 - We should put out a sign up for kids who might be interested.
- Track and Field program? It would be nice to offer this to kids and given another option. Maybe someone who is a member of the community may be interested in helping/coaching?

7. Mapping

- Joe will follow up with John Morton about a sign maker, sizes, etc.

8. Summer

- Hope for TI to open and there are swim lessons
- Challenger Soccer Camps - coaches come from Europe, but they are interested and hoping to come to TES to do that. If we can't go in the gym, there is no lightning shelter.

Next meeting date TBD

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

Recreation Advisory Council

Date: 16 December 2020

Members Present: Sara Ecker, Joe Deffner, Megan Dubuque, Stefanie Gulick, Andy McGovern, Nate Hill, Charlotte Rutledge, Stacy Barton

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm, conducted via Zoom

Recreation Director Position Update

- The town will soon post a job opening for a part time Rec Director
- At 20 hours per week, the roles that this person will take on will be determined by who is hired
- Treasure Island will not be included in the duties for this position
- There is a town committee working on Treasure Island and there is a proposal to take TI out of Rec, which would firm up the part time aspect of the Rec Director role
- Personnel decisions are the responsibility of the Interim Town Manager

Winter Sports Update

- Skiing is not happening this winter due to COVID, Dartmouth Skiway is in NH
- Currently, basketball is not running due to the pandemic, but that could change depending on Governor Scott's mandates

Norwich Recreation

- Brie Swenson (Norwich Rec Director) has offered to help out Thetford Rec since we don't have a director, at a cost.
- Thetford residents can participate in Norwich Rec programs at the Norwich resident rate
- Norwich will pass along notes from the Upper Valley Rec Meetings
- Also willing to help with baseball and navigate scheduling

Town Website

- Town is changing the town website and each committee will have their own page

- Stacy Barton will receive training from Martie Betts to have access and update the Rec Page
- Agendas, meeting minutes will be posted on the site, but we could add more if we wanted to do so.

Quests

- Discussion about mapping trails on Thetford Hill and whether we could/should put a kiosk at TES with maps. Which maps would we include? TA Trails? Mapps of Mimi's Trail Quest?
- Would a TES class be interested in creating a new quest?

New Rec Ideas

- In the absence of many of our winter programs, any ideas for something we could provide for the community?
- Winter BINGO ideas to be developed - will need donations from area merchants, could provide a sponsored Rec Gift - tshirt, etc.
- Idea to collaborate with Norwich for Mountain Biking and cross country activities.
- Members were encouraged to keep brainstorming potential ideas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

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Recreation Advisory Council

November 10, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:05PM, conducted via Zoom

Members Present: Sara Ecker, Stefanie Gulick, Nathan Maxwell, Megan Dubuque, Joseph Deffner, Andy McGovern, Nate Hill, Charlotte Rutledge.

Members Not Present: Stacy Barton (excused)

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were not reviewed in this meeting.

Update to Committee Members

Sara formally announced Mike Wells resignation from the Committee. She expressed her, and the Town's, gratitude for his many years of service to the organization and youth sports.

Meeting Introduction and Questions

Joe asked for an overview of the Committee and an explanation of the Committee's duties. Sara provided a brief history. Later in the meeting, Sara followed up with an email from Nick Clark that expressed his idea on how the Committee can support recreation opportunities for the Town. Sara will resend this message to the Committee members.

Youth Sports Update

Nathan elaborated on his position, Director of Publics Works and Recreation. Nathan provided an update on winter sports. The current status is that the gym is not available to the REC programs. Coaches are in place and Nathan is working with Towns to put together a draft schedule in the event that access to the gym changes. He proposed running a short outdoor basketball season.

Nathan proposed that we postpone the ski sale for this year. Sara suggested an online market sale to replace the in-person ski swap. Sara will research an online option and send information to the Committee via email.

The Ski Program at Dartmouth can not happen due to State restrictions. Nathan will investigate using Northeast Slopes in Corinth.

The Committee discussed other winter outdoor activity options to provide opportunities for the community to get out and be active. Megan proposed an outdoor adventure Friday option to replace ski Fridays. Nathan to reach out to the TES Principal to gauge his interest and will report back to the Committee.

REC is not responsible for Treasure Island plans at the present time. A separate committee has been formed to consider plans for the property. A brief update was provided by Nathan.

Trails Overview

Nathan provided an update on the Town trails system. He requested that the Committee determine a plan for this kiosk at the trailhead at TES parking lot. Joe indicated there is a Trails Committee in Town that can be a resource and proposed a Valley Quest element designed by TES. The Committee agreed to take on this task.

Next meeting is tentatively planned for the second week in February 2021.

With no addition items to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Recreation Advisory Council

Date: 13 August 2020

Members Present: Sara Ecker, Joe Deffner, Megan Dubuque, Stefanie Gulick, Stacy Barton

Meeting commenced at 7:07pm

- Welcome to new members (Joe Deffner, Megan Dubuque and Charlotte Rutledge)
- Discussion of the history of RAC and its evolution over time, especially with the addition of a full time Rec Director. Clarification: Thetford Rec is not only youth sports.
 - Nick Clark and Mary Bryant have been working with Sara some guidance
 - Hoping to more clearly define purpose in the upcoming months
 - Nick put together the following informal statement as a guideline for us to follow going forward and include WHY he thought this charge made sense: “To inventory, research, and promote recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages.”
 - Rec Director has big picture ideas, and it's the role of the RAC members is to help those ideas come to fruition if possible.
- Big ideas to discuss and prioritize:
 - Land in Post Mills - both parcels Nathan Maxwell was hoping to develop for Rec are under conservation (not available). Still looking for land for Thetford Rec to ‘develop’ for community use.
 - Timothy Frost Building - thoughts to potentially develop into a gym and/or wellness center.
 - Playground on Thetford Center Green (\$80k). Trying to make a playground accessible to kids age 0-5 (pre-K).
 - Treasure Island -
 - Rec Director has reported that it has been a great summer. Agreement from council members who have been to TI this summer as well.

- TA Shop Teacher Chris Schmidt, Rich Biddle, Mary Bryant and Nathan Maxwell did a walk through regarding structures.
 - Seven structures - proposal to take one down and replace it (camp center), another structure needs roofing, create a pavilion, build a new deck in front of the changing rooms for ADA, improve the basketball/sports shed.
 - Art structure is not safe, idea to replace with a deck that could potentially be replaced with an art structure again some day.
 - Repairs could be done via a community work day (at some point) who would be willing to give their time to make many improvements.
 - Chris Schmidt has some interest in doing a couple of projects with students.
- Nathan found a company that would come in and do a study on it and provide recommendations for \$10k. Determines the potential of Treasure Island, and how it could make a profit. Mary Bryant has said that there is grant money out there to cover a chunk of this but not all of it. RAC could take on grant writing and/or fundraising to help cover this study.
 - Are there people in town who live in town who might have this expertise?
- Might be a good idea to poll the townspeople to see what they would like to see at Treasure Island.
- Closing date for the year - Usually closes at the end of August, and kids aren't going back to school until September 8. Can the closing be extended?
- Fall Sports
 - Survey sent today - preference over whether to keep all sports in town or to play teams outside of our town.
 - Good consensus at the UVRA meeting that we wouldn't be playing other towns.

- Kickball teams and soccer have been listed on the rec site for registration.
 - Fall baseball is also happening.
- To do:
 - Sara will gather information about the proposed TI study and we will discuss further.
 - Thinking about more activities that Thetford Rec could offer, for younger kids, older kids and adults as well.
- Will wait to schedule the next meeting date when the Rec Director is available. Generally we meet every few months, but we can be flexible.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm

Recreation Advisory Council

June 11, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:11pm.

Members Present: Andy McGovern, Sara Ecker, Nathan Maxwell, Nathan Hill, Stacy Barton, Stefanie Gulick

Selectboard Member Present: Mary Bryant

1. Minutes from the March 10 meeting approved.

2. Introduction of Mary who is the liaison to the Board.

3. Background for Mary from Sara:

- Lack of information from Selectboard, floundering a bit as a committee. When the Rec Director position was a more part time position, they needed more support. Nathan is full time, we don't have as much to do. We need a bit more direction from the Selectboard. We meet four times per year, but can meet more if needed.

4. Mary asks the question: why are you on the RAC?:

- Sara: Two kids, on since oldest was in kindergarten, long time coach, feel strongly about recreation for kids and community
- Andy: Young kids, involved with sports, coaching.
- Nate: Young kids involved in sports, coaching multiple seasons, give back.
- Stacy: Same as everyone else
- Stefanie: kids are involved in sports, a way to help and support the sports community for the kids

5. Baseball:

- Postponed until now, started practice for minors tonight. Hour long practice. Majors start tomorrow. Hoping to start with the younger kids next week. Nathan needs to be at first practice to make sure health

precautions and guidelines are followed. Will have sanitizer in the dugout soon.

- Games will be able to start July 1. Only hurdle will be what the state allows for who will be allowed at the game. 25 max. If that's the case, we can have away games where there is great internet service to stream games.
- 12 kids per major and minor teams. Rookie team will have ~9. Good sized k-1 team. At this point, the focus is getting kids out throwing and batting.

6. Treasure Island:

- Will open Monday. Will be open 10-7 M, W, F, Sa, Su. Tu and Th will be reserved for recreation activities. Baseball teams and families will be allowed to go then.
- Tu and Th will be recreation days, hopefully many people in town will be able to access TI.
- Blocks of time to have groups of people to come for 1.5 hours as "swim teams." \$15 for the summer. Sign up your group and you can go for an hour and a half for the summer.
- Swim lessons. One lesson in the summer. Hour long session; half hour of swim lesson and half hour family time. On Tuesday and Thursday.
- Camps: Art camp will be difficult with no tables. This might happen at TES. Outdoor exploration will still happen. Hoping to do a kayak camp with Bonna Weiler.
- Many rec depts in the Upper Valley have cancelled their camps, but Lebanon and Hanover have not, so Nathan is working with them to see how they are working. Nathan is also working with the Aloha Foundation to make sure there is consistency.
- Nathan thinks that TI will either be really busy every day, but if it dies off, he is willing to rethink what can be done, and may potentially offer season passes.
- Equity: It is good that there is an option for people to apply for subsidy.

- Trying to push checks and credit cards so that there is limited contact. However, if people move to this, the cost may be able to be reduced. Initially came out in multiples of \$5 for ease of payment.
- Nathan could use help posting notices to the listserv. Sara will help with this.
- Q: Limiting access might cause an equity issue. Is there a way to control how long people stay? Do we need to do this? A: There will be signs asking people to consider staying for a little while and leave to be considerate of others. No picnic tables, no playgrounds, no docks. Kids can't play in groups. The group that comes together can be together, but you cannot play with other families. Fifty is the max that can be at Treasure Island.
- Q: Are employees enforcing the rules? A: Yes. Nathan thinks the first two weeks are going to be the most difficult. People aren't going to like the price or the lack of amenities. Although there is less for people to do, there is a lot more cleaning to be done, so it is not really less for more.
- Bathroom updates: There are touchless paper towel dispensers and soap dispensers.
- Suggestions for signage.
- Tried to have passes, but that just didn't work with the number of people who had passes last year. Tried lots of different ways, and it just didn't work logistically.
- Q: Can we limit just to Thetford residents? A: Hard to do this. If it becomes a problem, but we need to see how it goes. Going to have to troubleshoot as we go.
- RAC is happy to help out the Rec Director when he needs it.
- Bizzy bodies will be there on Tuesdays, Jill Cray will do yoga on Thursdays. Nathan could use help from RAC to brainstorm more adult activities on that day. Is it worth putting on the Thetford Bulletin Board? Volleyball? Horseshoes? Pickleball?

- Q: Can we rent out the island or create a facility on the island? Pavilion is there and just needs to be put in on the island, can include a deck, need a shoreline protection permit. Permit is ready to go.
- Mary: Idea: Refurbished the Rice's Mill one room schoolhouse (grants, sweat equity, etc.), did the same thing with the Thetford Hill Church. Could we do the same with TI? Toured Treasure Island; lots that need to be replaced or are out of code. Want to get some skilled carpenters and professionals to see if we can set up a community work day to come and make repairs on Treasure Island.
- Sara: We used to have a work day there years ago. It's a great idea. There has been a lot of movement to improve TI in the past, and it gets to a certain point and then it stalls.
- Nathan has gotten recommendations for creating a master plan for TI from planners in Burlington. Soon he will seek donations from the town to fund this master plan. It will include what could and should be done at TI, as well as revenue generators.
- We have not had a lot of support from the Selectboard, and never had a town manager, mostly due to priorities and turnover. Maybe this is the time we can change that.
- Really want to figure out how to make TI a place that is a great place for the town, not just as a beach, but also for other social events.
- If we come up with a good master plan, we can introduce it to the town and hope that people make donations to support it. There are also grants that can help to finance.

7. Fall Sports:

- Very unclear what will be the situation in the fall because of COVID-19.
- We will plan like the seasons will happen so we are ready to go, but will be prepared to cancel if needed.

8. Scholarship fund:

- Accepted and now officially on the books.

- Accepting funds for TI support. It will help any kiddos that need funds to play.
- Can we add to the sign up for people to donate when they sign up for sports? Will try.

9. Next Meeting

- Due to the current situation, makes sense to meet in early August.
- Will meet on Wednesday, August 12 at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

RAC Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2020

7:00 start

Members present: Nathan Maxwell, Andy McGovern, Nate Hill, Sara Ecker, Stacy Barton

Director Position

- After recent departures and vacancies on the selectboard, Nick Clark asked Nathan to come back to full time, starting on April 1. Right now it's 34-37 hours per week.
- MWTh - 6am-5pm hours currently.
- Title change to Parks and Rec Director.
- Back in charge of Treasure Island

- May need to come up with a new mission statement if there is a new title, but those conversations are to be held in the future. Will need this to talk about the mission and goals of RAC committee.

Projects

- Trying to make the green area across from the Village Store more community friendly. Need a place for younger kids during school hours. Create a mission/goal for this green space.
- Timothy Frost building - 3-4 plans but nothing set yet. Would be nice to see it as a community building for adults and kids alike. Perhaps a theater facility. Heat but no bathroom.
- Treasure Island: Front patio area in front of the bath house, bathrooms will be revamped, stalls will be updated.
- Commissioner roles have worked well this year. If we can't find a "commissioner" we can look to have team parents. However, now that Nathan is full time most issue can and should handle things that come up.

Skiing

- Lots of kids signed up.
- Lots of volunteers (five from the community). There was a little struggle with the Kindergarten group because it is not an instructional program. Ticketing issues/details should be a bit more clear next year. Nathan hopes to spend time over the summer and fall to help improve the Kindergarten experience. Also need to spend a little bit of time helping parents classifying their child as a skier. Thought - send a poll to parents and record data for next year.

Baseball

- T-Ball, Rookie, Minors and Majors Teams.
- We have plenty of coaches and lots of kids signed up.
- Lyme will not have a majors team, and a weak minors team. We will get some Lyme kids on the majors team.

- Strafford parents have reached out to see if there would be room on our teams if they cannot field teams.
- If we can't find a "commissioner" we can look to have team parents. However, now that Nathan is full time most issues can and should handle things that come up.

Softball

- Only two sign ups (one minor and one major). Fourteen signed up last year. Cal Ripken is very watered down and this may be a turn off to players. Girls can also play baseball. Girls on the Run is also happening. 6th graders may also be able to join the track team.

Lacrosse

- Instructional lacrosse is also an option. Problem that you run into with lacrosse is that there is no high school team. Another problem is equipment. There is interest, but not sure how much. Idea to run a pilot program to have skills sessions and see what the turn out would be. Getting equipment would be a challenge, but not insurmountable.

Mountain Bike Trail

- \$8200 assessment to overlook the property and give us a good idea of what we can do. Trying to do a five town connection. Look at all the trails there that need to be expanded, closed down, etc. Need mapping to be done. VAST and Army Corps of Engineers have been a great resource. Still working on creating a contiguous network of land. Working with several stakeholders, including Upper Valley Trails Alliance, TA, Thetford and Rec.

Next Meeting

- May 13th

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm