

GILFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

January 8, 2024

Present: Matt Saulnier, Sue King, Brittini Stewart, Thom Francoeur, Chris Banks, Peter Allen, Rick Nelson, Dave Smith, Lisa Manz-Buckley, and Miriam York

Excused: Jim Glover

Also in attendance: Dan Barnhart and Scott Dunn

The meeting was called to order by Rick Nelson at 5:30pm.

1. **Welcome to Brittini Stewart** our new Director, introductions were made.
2. **Minutes of December 4, 2023** were approved as written.
3. **Programs Update:** Youth basketball started on December 9, 2023. There was a discussion about holding tryouts for the All-Star team two weeks sooner than usual. It was decided to keep the start as originally planned. Senior Strides has between 6 and 10 participants every Wednesday. Senior Momentum has had good turnouts for their activities. Volleyball has good numbers with usually 21 players. Ski and snowboard program started on January 2 and will run for four Tuesday evenings. The Celtic trip has 6 tickets remaining for their February 14th trip. Snowshoe program needs snow. The Candlelight Stroll was very successful – could use another sleigh with horses so more folks can have rides. Francoeur/Babcock Tournament will be held March 7-10th and their first committee meeting will be held on January 13th @10:30am in the GES cafeteria. BNH is the #1 major sponsor this year.
4. **Beach Building Update:** A letter composed by the building committee was read and commented on. The Public Hearing on the bond will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00pm.
5. **2024 budget discussion:** Public Hearing for the Town/School Budgets will be held on January 11th at 7:00pm at the GHS auditorium

6. **Facility Use Requests:** None

7. **Other Business:** The ice rink – lots of inquiries but no ice until cold weather sets in.

The next meeting will be held on February 5 at 5:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Miriam A. York". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Miriam A. York
Secretary

Enclosure: Letter on Beach Building

To the voters of Gilford:

The question “do we need a new building at the Town Beach”? The answer is YES we do for the following reasons:

The building was built in 1963 so it is 60 years old. It has served the Town well and many repairs have been made over the years, but its useful life has reached an end because of its age. Also, many parts of the building are out of code and can no longer be repaired.

1. The plumbing is so out of date that parts are no longer available. Licensed plumbers are unable to bring the plumbing up to code. There is asbestos in the walls and some repairs involve opening up the walls, so that is a major health hazard.
2. The asbestos problem also affects the health of any electricians, town employees, and beach staff that work on/in the building.
3. Potential legal issues due to the age and condition of the building.
4. It does not meet the Americans with Disability (ADA) standards.
5. Ants and termites have caused problems, even with regular service from a pest control agency.
6. There is a need for a mechanical room separate from storage to meet safety and fire codes.
7. A bond of \$900,000. over 20 years would cost \$.02 per every thousand dollar evaluation on property. For a \$500,000 property, that is \$10.00/year.
8. There are positive recommendations from – The Board of Selectmen 2-1, and the Budget Committee 9-0. Based on the Survey from the residents that participated there was a positive response for a new building.

The Town Beach is a source of pride for the people of Gilford and is the envy of surrounding towns. The new building being proposed is nothing fancy but should meet the needs of the Town for another 60+ years. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Recreation Commission. We would love to talk with you.

Sincerely,

The Recreation Commission of Gilford