

GILFORD PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 5, 2020

Present: Participating by zoom: Herb Greene, Dave Smith, Peter Allen, Rick Nelson, Thom Francoeur, and Miriam York

Excused: Jim Glover, Tracey Blandford, and Lisa Manz-Buckley

To order by Rick Nelson at 5:30

1. Rick appointed Peter as a voting member for the meeting.

2. Minutes:

Peter made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting as written. Rick seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

3. **Program Assistant Update:**

Herb received interest from two candidates. Unfortunately, one withdrew and the other didn't meet background check requirements. At this time with the COVID-19 keeping activities to a minimum, we can manage but need to look to hiring a full time assistant in the future.

4. **Programs Update:**

Herb reviewed the Director's report. The hikes have been well attended and they may add a few more, weather permitting. Soccer has gone well with 118 participants in the three divisions. Halloween plans are for October 30th with a drive through hand out of bags of candy and gifts for the first 250 children. Plans are for contests via e-mail of pictures for costume and pumpkin carving. Youth basketball is unlikely to happen if we can't use the various school gyms. There was discussion on how we are going to run the ski lessons and the safety precautions that will need to be taken.

5. Gilford Beach:

The swim lines and raft have been removed from the lake and a marker buoy anchor was reset. The new vent exhaust system will be installed sometime this month. There was a request for a handicap wheel chair that could go on the sand and Herb submitted a request for one in his budget but it was not recommended by Scott Dunn, Town Administrator, but will be presented to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration.

There was a discussion about changing some of the beach regulations. Herb reviewed a couple versions of proposed updated regulations, one by Town Administrator Dunn and one by Herb. A motion was made by Rick and seconded by Thom to recommend the Board of Selectmen adopt Herb's proposed updates with the following changes, to set the fee for daily guest passes at \$15.00 per car and to change the proposed fee for seasonal guest passes to \$200.00. All other updates to stay as proposed. The motion was unanimously passed.

The concession stand had a good season and the operator plans to return again next year.

6. Lincoln Park:

Herb and Sue identified what trees could be removed and Public Works will take care of them when they have time this fall.

7. 2021 Budget discussion:

Herb has submitted his budget, which has been reviewed by Town Administrator Dunn. The Board of Selectmen will be conducting their review later this week.

8. Facility Use Request:

Lakes Region Flag Football would like to use our field. Okayed, provided they can work around Gilford soccer teams.

9. Other business:

Next meeting will be held on November 2, 2020 at 5:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam A. York
Secretary

Enclosure:

Director's Report

Director's Report for October 5, 2020

Programs

We're currently right in the middle of our limited fall programming. Our youth soccer program is well underway, with strong numbers down slightly from last season. We have 3 teams in our grades 3-5 division, 4 teams in our grades 1-2 division and 3 teams in our Kindergarten PeeWee program. Due to COVID-19, we will not be holding our annual end of season Round Robin, in an effort to reduce the number players/coaches/fans that would be in any one area for an extended period of time. Our PeeWee program is scheduled to wrap-up on October 3rd and our older divisions run through October 16th. We've run the first couple Adult Hikes of our fall schedule. So far, we've had good numbers and the participants are enjoying the outdoor activity where they can be socially distant. The numbers for the programs we've run the past month are as follows:

- Fall Youth Soccer Program (Grades K-5) – 118 Participants
- Adult Hike on Sept. 15 – 11 Participants
- Adult Hike on Sept. 22 – 13 Participants

We still have a few more Adult Hikes planned for the fall and we may add a few others if interest stays high and as weather allows. We're currently planning for alternative Halloween activities, as we will not be able to run our traditional Halloween Happening party indoors. This will include some virtual programming, possibly combined with some in-person/drive thru activity. Other traditional fall programs are still on hold, as we're not allowed into indoor spaces where we traditionally hold programs. We've already got an eye towards winter activities as we're trying to evaluate what we'll be able to run and what we won't. We're confident we'll be able to offer a number of our regular outdoor activities, but indoor programs such as youth basketball are still up in the air at this time. Here is a list of planned programs for the end of September and beginning of October and the dates they will run:

- Adult Hike at Ramblin' Vewe Farm on September 29th
- PeeWee Soccer Program wraps up on October 3rd
- Adult Hike at West Rattlesnake on October 6th
- Adult Hike on October 13th – TBD
- Youth Soccer wraps up on October 16th
- Adult Hike on October 20th - TBD
- Halloween Program Activities will be offered in late October.

Facilities

We've cleaned and winterized the fire suppression hood at the Beach Concession Stand. Matt from Buildings is coordinating with the contractor who will be replacing the hood exhaust system to have this completed before the building is closed up for the season.

The swim lines, raft and JIM buoys at the beach were removed in mid-late September and we'll plan to have the water turned off after Columbus Day. Until that time, we'll continue to open the gate and restrooms on a weather dependent basis. During this time, our maintenance staff will continue to sanitize the restrooms daily.

Sue and I completed a tree inventory along the shoreline at Lincoln Park and have marked the trees intended for removal in accordance to the NHDES Vegetation Management guidelines. DPW is planning to remove these trees along with cutting down all small vegetation along the shoreline this fall.

We're also hoping to have some cracks filled at the tennis courts prior to this winter.

Sincerely,

Herb Greene, Gilford Parks and Recreation Director