

## MENDON RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

### MINUTES

Attendance: Jesse Bridge, Lisa Brooks, Larry Courcelle, Liam Fracht-Monroe, Betsy Reddy, Jim Reddy

The Meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. It was proposed that approval of the 11/15/22 Minutes, discussion about the US flag at the Recreation Area, and ball field mowing be added to the Agenda. Larry moved to approve the amended Agenda. Liam seconded and all present approved. Subsequently, the Minutes of the November Meeting Minutes were approved (motion by Betsy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry, approved by all present).

- a. Sarah e-mailed the “facility use agreement” for Rutland County Little League’s use of the ball field for the 2023 season to Mike Robolotto, but has not received it back yet. Liam commented that Mike and his volunteers were excellent to work with last year and did a great job with clean up and prep of the field at the beginning of the season.
- b. Liam will contact Tyler at the Rutland Recreation Dept. to see if they inspect the playground structure to provide written certification of it meeting safety standards. If not, he will get a name from Tyler or look to the VLCT for guidance.
- c. We reviewed and discussed written quotes (between \$46,000 and \$51,000) from two playground companies. The Selectboard approved \$50,000 of ARPA funds toward the cost. Additional expenses beyond the structure itself are demolition and removal of the existing structure and site work at the new location. A possible source of additional funding is through the 2024 “Congressionally Directed Spending” program. The funds earmarked for Vermont are overseen by Senator Bernie Sanders’ office. Liam is going to draft a grant proposal for these added expenses as well as solar lighting for the Recreation Area flag so it doesn’t need to be taken down at the end of each day. The deadline for applications is March 10 by 5:00 p.m. He may seek help from Devon Neary at the Rutland Region Planning Commission.
- d. AARP is accepting grant applications from communities that promote accessibility and/or inclusivity, with a March 15 deadline for grants up to \$10,000. This would allow us to add specialized play or exercise structures in the vicinity of the playground.
- e. The AARP Winter Placemaking Grant (\$4,000 awarded) is paying for picnic tables and town logo signage. The tables are on order and Liam is following up on the signage.
- f. The Recreation Committee will continue take care of seasonal clean up and maintenance on the trails behind the ball field. We are grateful for but do not require the assistance of the Mendon Mountain Bike Club.
- g. Lisa Brooks is very pleased with the turnout and fun that’s been had on the first three “Saturday Snowshoe” outings. Six to eight people have registered each time, and typically three to four individuals have attended. There were two held in January, one in February, and two more will occur the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays in March.
- h. Two of the town’s Road Maintenance crew are retiring in the coming months, so we may need volunteer help with mowing the ball field and around the parking area.
- i. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Betsy Reddy, Secretary