

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING - MINUTES

DATE: 6/8/20

TIME: 6pm

PLACE: Town Hall Annex (Gym), 856 Main Rd., Westport, MA 02790

ATTENDANCE: Dana Stewart, Renee Dufour, Becky Leverett, Tim Gillespie, Cecilia Carney (remotely)

ABSENT: Erik Reis

Open Meeting: 6:18pm meeting called to order by Renee Dufour

Approve Minutes: Table until next meeting

Old Business:

- Recreation Dept. Sign
 - *The Highway Dept. put up a new sign under the "Town Hall Annex Building" sign with the wording of "Recreation." This is so the public will know that the Recreation Dept. is in the Town Hall Annex building.*
- Plan for improvements to outside/back area of Annex
 - *We have been pre-approved by Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to receive \$44,000 in order to improve the back of the Town Hall Annex outside area (basketball courts, outdoor stage, fencing, etc.).*
 - *Tim Gillespie said he would check with the Highway Dept. to ask if they can give us an estimate of when they will be able to help clear out the old fencing, take away the old satellite dish, etc. to get us started.*

New Business – Directors Report:

- *Dana Stewart, Recreation Director reports the following:*
- Westport Food Pantry
 - *All is going really well! Mondays are our food distribution days to the community from 9am-12pm. Tuesdays and Thursdays are the days we accept donations from 9am-12pm. We accept in-kind donations of food/paper goods/toiletries, grocery gift cards and monetary donations with checks made out to the "Town of Westport" with "Food Pantry" in the notes section. All monetary donations go into a revolving donation account set up just for the Westport Food Pantry.*
 - *Each Monday we hand out an average of 100 bags of food, 85 boxes of produce (through the USDA Farm to Family program – Contact of Liz at the Marion Institute and Sid Wainer & Son) and farm fresh greens donated by Round the Bend Farm, Heffland Community Gardens, and sometimes potatoes from Ferbolink Farms. Ivory Silo Farm also donated vegetable plants to us one time. Through April and May we received boxes of food from the Greater Fall River Food Pantry. Now I am trying to connect us with the Greater Boston Food Bank as well as the United Way of New Bedford.*
 - *We have 5 volunteers helping (some on different days) and they have been wonderful! The volunteers and I follow the necessary guidelines and wear masks and gloves at all times. There is no close in-person contact as people stay in their cars as we put the food in their trunks. People who get food show their Westport drivers license through the window.*
 - *We started a "Free Stuff" table where we can recycle things like books, toys, etc. for people to take.*
- Rec programs
 - *All spring programs were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.*
 - *Hope to offer the following this summer while following all appropriate guidelines for COVID-19: Tennis Lessons, Outdoor Yoga, Outdoor Cardio/Strength Training.*
 - *Fall programs will be planned, but also depends on what current guidelines are out for that season.*
 - *Will look into movie licensing for future outdoor movie nights and theatre contacts for buying curtains, lights, etc. for our indoor stage.*
- Gym Rentals/Usage
 - *All spring gym rentals were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic; Offering refunds for people who pre-paid for gym rentals.*

- *No gym rentals this summer due to COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *Farmers Market will use outside outlets and port-a-jon (not the gym).*
- COVID-19 safety
 - *Consult with the Board of Health Director on a weekly basis in order to follow all guidelines for running the Westport Food Pantry.*
 - *Will continue to consult with the Board of Health Director for guidelines for running any future recreation programs. Also referencing the guidelines for recreation set forth by the state.*
- Financials
 - *Updated financials were provided for both the Recreation Dept. and the Westport Food Pantry.*

Other Topics:

- Campground Use Committee
 - *Dana Stewart continues to be a part of this committee. The committee recently approved forming a subcommittee which would represent at the School Building Committee.*
- WLCT
 - *Dana Stewart, Recreation Director is now a member of the Land Connection Working Group through Westport Land Conservation Trust (WLCT). This group was formed to help with partnerships, ideas, etc.*

Close Meeting: 7:02pm motion to adjourn the meeting by Tim Gillespie; second by Renee Dufour

Next Meeting: Monday, July 13, 2020 at 6pm