

TOWN OF HIGHGATE

Parks and Recreation Committee

APPROVED MINUTES

September 10th, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Liza Comiskey at 6:40 pm.

Present at meeting:

- **Parks and Recreation Committee Members:** Liza Comiskey, Ty Choiniere, Karen Gagne-Fortin, Danielle Pothier, Greg Farnham, Katina Farnham, Christopher Yates
- **Guests:** Dick Harper and Brian Spears

II. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Item #1: Motion: Liza Comiskey motioned to approve the meeting minutes for August 28th. Ty Choiniere seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #2: Karen Gagne-Fortin and Dick Harper shared some of the discussion points from the Selectboard meeting regarding the mission and future of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The Parks and Recreation Committee received positive feedback from the Selectboard regarding the efforts put forth thus far and discussed the likelihood of it becoming its own department in the future. Major concerns were expressed by Tom Racine regarding structure and liability. He was not present at the Selectboard meeting, nor was he able to attend this meeting.

Item #3: Chris Yates stated that he will continue to work with the town to create an inventory of parks and land. The main parks/facilities that were highlighted: boat launch (shipyard), park next to town office, arena, and Falls Park. Chris to find out how much money is allocated for park maintenance. Committee to create a wish list of items to improve the parks/facilities (benches, repairs, etc.).

Discussion of creating a nature/walking trail and perhaps the MVU Forestry program could be involved in the building process.

Item #4: Next meeting to discuss basketball program. Chris Yates to confirm whether if this program can be sponsored through the Parks and Recreation Committee or if it needs to go through the Public Library.

Item #5: Dick Harper to continue to work on website and calendar. Need to determine the domain name to be used.

Item #6: Cross Country program is full (25 participants). The soccer program has had a great turn out as well. Unfortunately there isn't a Pre-K and K team as there weren't any volunteer coaches for this age group. Ty Choiniere offered to develop a questionnaire for parents/guardians of participants so that we can get feedback on how to improve the program for next year. The questionnaire will also include parents/guardians with the opportunity to sign up as a volunteer for next season or future programs. Danielle Pothier also suggested creating a Survey Monkey questionnaire to determine community awareness of programs being offered and to get information on programs that are of interest to community members.

Item #7: Discussion of starting a farmers market at the arena, rent out tables, music playing outside. Many other towns host farmers markets that have great turnouts. This would be another great program to bring to the community.

Item #8: Motion: Motion by Liza Comiskey to form structure and elect Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Motion seconded by Karen Gagne-Fortin. Chris Yates opens nominations for Chair. Motion by Liza Comiskey to nominate Karen Gagne-Fortin. Motion seconded by Ty Choiniere. Motion made by Karen Gagne-Fortin to nominate Liza Comiskey. Motion seconded by Ty Choiniere. Chris Yates closes nominations. Liza Comiskey elected as Chair, by voice vote - passed. Liza Comiskey opens nominations for Secretary. Motion made by Liza Comiskey to nominate Danielle Pothier as Secretary. Motion seconded by Karen Gagne-Fortin. There were no other nominations, by voice vote – passed. Liza opens nominations for Treasurer. Motion made by Katina Farnham to nominate Greg Farnham. Motion seconded by Ty Choiniere. Motion made by Greg Farnham to nominate Katina Farnham. Motion seconded by Karen Gagne-Fortin. Katina and Greg decide that they would be willing to become co-treasurers. No objections to their proposal. There were no other nominations, by voice vote – passed.

Now that a structure has been created, we need to look into creating bylaws and what monies are currently allocated for park maintenance. Need to set up a meeting with Tom Racine to address his concerns and steps that need to be taken to move forward.

Item #9: Change in meeting schedule, Committee will now meet every 1st Tuesday of the month. Next meeting scheduled for October 7th for 6:30 at the Highgate Public Library.

III. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Liza Comisky motioned to adjourn the meeting. Greg Farnham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously at 8:22 pm.

Minutes typed and submitted by Danielle Pothier

Minutes approved by: Liza Comiskey

Date: 10/7/2014