



**PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING MINUTES**  
*February 6, 2019*

Members Present: Alison Link, John Duffy, Sara Haskins, Shelly Schaffer, Judy Bickford

Guests: Valerie Valcour, Tricia Follert, Maggie Cleary

Alison Link called the meeting to order at 8:20am.

**I. AGENDA CHANGES OR ADDITIONS**

None

**II. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Motion made by Judy Bickford to approve minutes of January 3, 2019, motion seconded by John Duffy. Motion carried. (5/0).

**III. COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

None

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Motion made by Alison Link to appoint Kristi McAllister to the Morrystown Parks and Recreation Committee, motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)**
- Sara Haskins presented copies of the 1999 Morrystown Recreation Council bylaws and a draft amended version that both she and Tricia Follert had revised to fit with current practices. Sara & Tricia met briefly with Kristi McAllister previously to discuss how Morrystown Parks & Rec and Morrystown Summer Rec Camp can support each other. Sara gave a brief explanation of how the budgeting process works and a brief overview of the proposed recreation budget. **Motion made by Shelly Schaffer to approve the amended bylaws as presented, seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)**
- Alison Link presented three possible dates to hold a winter family open gym event at the Peoples Academy gym: February 23, March 9 and March 30. The Committee discussed possible activities to have at the event including 4 squares, hula hoop contests, arts & crafts, board games and corn hole. Maggie Cleary will fill out the application request to reserve the dates at the school and create a poster of rules for the event. Tricia will contact Stowe and Craftsbury to learn more about what they do at their open gym events. Sara will contact Kristi McAllister to see if we can use some of the summer recreation materials at the events. The first event will be Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2-4pm. There will be no charge to people attending and we will have a signup sheet at the door to collect email addresses for people who would like to be on future mailing lists. Sara & Alison are available to staff this event. The Committee members working at the event will wear the old Morrystown shirts that the Town has in the basement to distinguish themselves as staffing the

event. The Committee discussed the March 30<sup>th</sup> event being an introduction to bikes. Valerie Valcour will look into getting helmets donated. It was also suggested to have a bike swap in conjunction with the event. This could be a Rise Vermont grant that we request funding to support. It was suggested to host/promote a seasonal event the last Saturday of every month. The Committee could contact local businesses to see if they would sponsor an event. Other potential locations could be events at River Arts, E=MC2, the Lamoille Valley Youth Center and other nonprofits along with outdoor locations. The committee wants to pursue conversations with MES about usage of the gym on a regular basis, especially for adult use where there have been some obstacles.

- Sara gave a brief overview of the myrec.com software that the Town just signed a one year reduced trial rate contract for. The main purpose is for registration of summer rec campers but it can also be used for promoting all recreational events in town. Sara told the group to review the Williston Rec department's website to see the public view of the program. The Town has also provided the Committee with its own official email: [parksandrec@morristownvt.org](mailto:parksandrec@morristownvt.org) and has updated the Town website to include both Parks and Rec and the Summer Rec Camp program. It was suggested that Sara let E=MC2 know of the new recreation software. Sara is going to look into if the software provides a blog.

## V. OTHER BUSINESS

- Sara submitted the Rise Vermont grant on behalf of the Committee. The Committee was awarded the grant to get 8 pairs of snowshoes, all the ice skates sharpened at Power Play Sports, and vouchers for more skates. It was suggested to contact the library to see if they can keep the snowshoes there to lend out. Maggie Cleary reported that there has been a lot of families using the skate rink. Tricia will work on getting the word out to the community about the skating rink and new snow shoes.
- Tricia present the suggested name change of “Morristown Parks and Recreation Committee” to differentiate this group from the “Morristown Summer Recreation Camp Program”. This is a standard name that many communities use. The group discussed how they could connect and interact with other groups in town that share similar interests like the Conservation Commission and the Duhamel Committee. It was suggested inviting Ron Stancliff to a future meeting. **Shelly Schaffer made a motion to change the committee name to the “Morristown Parks and Recreation Committee, motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)**
- John Duffy reported that due to the cold and icy weather around each of the full moons he has postponed organizing the pizza and night skiing event until a future date. The Committee discussed maybe organizing a bigger winterfest in future years.
- Alison handed out a draft of the recreation communication informational sheet she has created to review. Tricia is going to work with her on revising it. Some suggestions were that less is better, to add pictures, ask people if anyone wants to

lead an event or teach a skill. The Committee decided to put some of the recreation information on the Parks & Recreation tab of Town website and keep the printed information sheet short to place copies inside town reports and hand out at Town Meeting.

- Alison & Tricia are going to work on creating a giant poster to put up on the Town Office wall and one at Town Meeting to show the list of recreational assets in Morristown and ask community members to add any missing components.
- Alison reported that she met informally with Donna and the students about the skate park but they have nothing new to report at the moment. She also met with another group of young adults that use the skate park that had some ideas. She felt it would be better to follow up on the skate park as it gets closer to the spring/summer when it is in use.

#### **VI. BOARD CONCERNS**

- **Shelly Shaffer:** brought up the idea of approaching RK Miles regarding sponsoring a couple of playground elements like a swing set, sandbox or climbing dome that children can use at the Oxbow Park while other events were taking place there. Shelly is going to look into getting prices for a couple commercial grade pieces to present at a future meeting.
- **John Duffy:** brought up the idea of hosting an adult class at the observatory in the spring or summer. He also talked about moving the bike shed from the current location near the graded building down to the oxbow and getting more bike racks.
- **Sara Haskins:** handed out a summary sheet for open meeting law in Vermont for the Committee to familiarize themselves. She suggested building a pizza oven down at the Oxbow Park.
- **Alison Link:** none.
- **Judy Bickford:** none.

#### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

#### **VIII. ADJOURN**

**Motion made by Judy Bickford to adjourn at 9:50AM. Motion seconded by Alison Link. Motion carried. (5/0)**

Respectfully submitted and filed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019

Sara Haskins, scribe

*Pease note all minutes are in draft form and are subject to approval at the next Parks & Rec meeting.*