



## **Brighton Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**April 13, 2023**

Present: Maggie Machinist, Heather McElroy, Tonya Ozone

Present Virtually: Rebecca Clark, Brandy Goulet, Emma Gunn, Molly Osborne, Michael Strait

Maggie called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Updates to the agenda: Summer Event Schedule, Beach Campout

The Recreation and Economic Development Position was discussed regarding how the position would provide support to the committee on administrative tasks, integrate its programming with other town committees, departments and partners, and develop a comprehensive recreational program that serves all town members.

The committee discussed the gym coordinator appointment requested by the town. It was mentioned that it was easier when the online scheduling platform was used during Covid so Michael Strait said he would work with the committee to resurrect that system. He also stated that he would work on a policy whereby gym times will be scheduled in advance, there will be no calling committee members to open the gym for individuals.

Maple Fest was discussed and considered a success despite terrible weather conditions. Heather mentioned that April 1 next year falls on a Monday. Michael reminded the committee that the solar eclipse is the following Monday, and a weekend of events is being planned around it and suggested that maybe some of the Maple Fest events could be incorporated into that weekend. Rebecca Clark loved the idea of a lunar themed 5k.

Michael Strait will be applying for the Tillotson DASH grant in order to help cover the cost of swimming lessons. Rebecca Clark said she would talk with the hospital regarding other funding that previously came through them, possibly from BCBS. Heather and Rebecca stated they would both like to become certified instructors for next summer. They both expressed interest in being able to offer the lessons in the evening when the lake is calmer, and it is easier on the parents. Due to the tight time window, it was decided to contract with the group that we have used in the past for this year's lessons.

Molly Osborne stated that she had talked with one person that might be interested in working for the summer program. She and Maggie Machinist will follow up with her and the other person interested. It was discussed about extending the program to 12:30 pm and providing

lunch for the participants. Melinda Gervais was previously able to obtain grant funding to provide the lunches through Sunrise Manor. Maggie Machinist stated that she would reach out to her to see if that is possible this year. Tonya Ozone stated that she was aware of a USDA grant that might be able to fund the lunches and said she would send the information to Michael Strait in order to apply.

Maggie Machinist mentioned that the town manager would like to meet with the committee to develop four goals that are attainable by town meeting day next year. He is asking for this from all town departments. The committee discussed what kinds of things he is looking for and agreed to think about it and come to the next meeting prepared to discuss it.

Heather McElroy proposed the idea of holding a camp-out on the town beach this summer for families and kids in town. She proposed having staffed, separate, girls and boys tents for children whose parents are unable to attend. Brandy mentioned that the school has run into an issue with overnight programming. Heather and Michael stated that they would investigate the requirements and report back. The committee was in favor of the program once the logistics are solidified.

Classes like Zumba were discussed and how to deal with participation fees and how to accommodate when someone is unable to afford it. Michael stated that he thought we should apply for a Spark grant from the Vermont Community Foundation to fully cover the cost of these smaller program fees for town residents.

The committee agreed to keep Pondathon and the canoe race with the same times as last year but move the Foosball tournament back 30 minutes as it seemed too rushed last year between the events. Michael said he would work on securing a food vendor for the event. It was decided that the committee would host a vendor fair during the marathon weekend but would not do Foosball as the volunteers are exhausted and there is a concert scheduled for 5 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.