

Bernardsville Recreation Committee
October 13th, 2020 Minutes

The regular meeting of the Bernardsville Recreation Committee was held on Tuesday, October 13th, 2020 on Zoom. Ted Dolan called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

ROLL CALL:

In attendance was: William DeMilt, Ted Dolan, Heather Eich, Laura Hartnett, Joe Lukacs, Melissa Provost, Steve Reynolds, Louis Romano, Andrew Taylor and staff members Bob Markowick and Neil Mastrobuono

Absent was: Al Schaufler, Robert Steinkopf, Peg Trinter and Council Liaison Jena McCredie

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

OPEN SESSION:

Scott Fisher- discussed brining pickleball to the community and how surrounding towns run their pickleball programs. Recreation will get more detail on the ideal location for pickleball courts. Lining one of the tennis courts at the Polo Grounds is a possibility but this would need approval from the Somerset Hills School District.

QUESTIONS FOR THE RECREATION DIRECTOR/CORRESPONDENCE:

Bob Markowick reported on the Directors Report about facilities, programs and special events/ projects:

Facilities Update:

As the recreation master plan wraps up we are looking at two facility improvements that correlate with community needs. These are the construction of a walking path at the polo grounds and the construction/conversion of tennis court to pickle ball courts. Members of the recreation committee are working to determine the best path and materials that would fit the Polo Grounds as a recreation complex. Council is now pushing forward with an environmental/DEP study of the left field corner area of the large baseball field to determine our options for going through or around that space.

Programs Update:

The Somerset Hills Fall Outdoor Basketball program has 225 boys and girls registered from grades 3rd-8th. This has proven to be a very successful model thus far and we are in the planning stages of continuing this program into the winter with Peapack and Bedminster on board. Like most of our indoor programs this is dependent on our ability to access indoor space. The governors order on 10/12 allows for indoor sports, however this does not guarantee us the use of indoor facilities.

There has been interest in the Ski Club this year and we are currently planning on running that program as well. There may be enough interest to extend this program to high schoolers once again.

The women's fitness has received positive reviews and led to us offering an after school middle school girls fitness class. This class reached its capacity with registration opened for 3 days as we look to extend the outdoor programming season.

Our soccer academy has run smoothly alongside of multiple outside recreation programs at the polo grounds, there has been an increased level of organization and cooperation getting in as many sports as possible on our field before the winter hits.

Special Events/ Projects Update:

The Fishing Derby has launched virtually as participants were given three weeks to fish independently and then submit photos to the recreation department.

We have received applications from 4 veterans so two new banners are being produced to be displayed this upcoming veteran's day.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Andrew Taylor reported on the financial report that the pool was down \$45,000 from 2019. Summer camps were down from 2019 due to being able to only offer the half day summer camp. Pool and Summer Camp salaries and wages are down from 2019 due to the shortened pool season and half day summer camp. The pool had a net of \$18,191.30, summer camp had a net of \$11,743.32, and trust programs had a net of \$5,195.00.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

- a. Walking Path at Polo Grounds- Council voted down path at the Polo Grounds. New options of the path have been discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Pool Survey Questions- the Recreation Department will send out survey questions to the 2020 pool members. A presentation will be put together for Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by Ted Dolan at 8:35pm