

**Westbrook Board of Recreation
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2018**

Members Present: Chairman Steve Anderson, Phil Cocchiola, Matt LaSota, Mike Esposito, Kevin Blair, Melissa Ehlert and Darren Whitehouse.

Also Present: Recreation Director Rich Annino and Josh Freund.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman Steve Anderson.

2. Approval of Minutes – June 19, 2018 Special Meeting:

Upon a motion by Matt LaSota, seconded by Phil Cocchiola, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2018 Special Meeting, as distributed.

3. Director's Report – Rich Annino:

- Spring Travel soccer started last weekend. There are 6 teams (3 boys, 3 girls).
- Rich was approached by another adult soccer team about using Wren Park. We have had serious issues in the past with the fields being damaged. A decision needs to be made of whether to hold a \$3,000 deposit for the use of the field or to deny their request. This will be discussed under New Business.
- DPW has changed the light switches in the bathrooms at Ted Lane and Wren Park. The bathrooms will be painted in the near future.
- Basketball tryouts will be on September 17th for girls and will be held at Daisy. They will be September 19th for boys. Both start at 6:00 p.m. Mike Esposito, as always, is doing a great job with the program.
- The new basketball courts look really good. It's a great improvement to what was previously there.
- First Selectman Noel Bishop has stated that he would like to see Pickle Ball courts on the Town property on Fiske Lane. He is currently talking to the Westbrook Foundation about funds for the project. Both Old Saybrook and Clinton are currently installing similar courts.

Chantal Berg and Erin Corcoran, parents of children who attended P & R Summer Camp were present to talk about some concerns that they have regarding the program. They are concerned about children being transported in Counselors cars without proper protection. Rich Annino stated that although it was discussed, it never took place. He has a meeting with 9 Town Transit tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the possibility of contracting them in a dire situation to transport the children. They also had a concern about children being on a bus too long. Mr. Annino stated that this happened one time when they arrived at their destination and there was inclement weather so it was decided to go to another venue that was indoors. He made the necessary decision for the children's safety. The last recommendation is to have a "Text Blast" to all parents when there is any change in the schedule. The Board thanked Ms. Berg and Ms. Corcoran for coming to discuss their concerns and were encouraged to do it again if they feel it is necessary.

4. Old Business:

a. Face Book Page:

There page has been doing well. There was discussion of getting more information/reminders about what programs are coming up and when the deadline is to sign up. All the fall information should be uploaded. Chantal Berg stated that she is a photographer and would be happy to volunteer to take pictures at events so they be uploaded onto the Face Book page. Also, all information regarding the Annual Halloween Party should be on the page.

b. Update on Soccer Programs:

Soccer Coach Josh Freund asked why the coaches have to pay for their children to play soccer when they are volunteering their time. He feels that if you are a volunteer coach you should get some kind of registration reimbursement. Rich Annino contacted Town Attorney Mike Wells about this matter and he replied by email that the Board does not have the authority to waive fees for volunteer coaches because they would no longer be “volunteer, which is the same as any volunteer in the Town of Westbrook, including but not limited to Board or Commission volunteer members.

Mr. Freund also stated that he feels we need a uniform policy for team unity. This way all the kids will have the exact same uniform for shirts, shorts and socks. Chairman Anderson was stated that the Board is trying to keep the programs as cheap as possible and that some families cannot afford an increase in registration fees to pay for the uniform. Mr. Freund asked about getting sponsors for the teams or have a deposit program (paying a deposit at time of registration and getting a refund when the uniform is returned). It was discussed that an analysis be done before the spring season to look at information regarding costs vs. revenues.

There was discussion that the coaches might want to meet more often to help keep the lines of communication open.

There was discussion of whether the Soccer Sub-Committee is still needed. It was felt that the committee has accomplished what they were supposed to do and if it's needed in the future a new committee can be formed.

Upon a motion by Kevin Blair, seconded by Darren Whitehouse, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to disband the Soccer Sub-Committee.

c. Update on Fire Department's use of Ted Lane Field for Carnival:

Chairman Anderson stated that the Fire Department did a great job of leaving the ball fields in good shape after their annual carnival and they stayed off the new basketball courts. Secretary Kelemen was asked to write a thank you letter to the Fire Department.

While on the discussion of the ball fields, clay needs to be put down on both fields. There is extra clay located behind Wilcox.

5. New Business:

a. New Basketball Courts:

It was stated that the new basketball courts are awesome and just what the town needed. Lights are being added thanks to DPW. The members would like to see the backboards replaced also. Rich Annino will get prices for the back boards and will bring the information to the next meeting. This will be discuss at the next meeting.

Now that the courts are being used more often there is a safety concern and maybe we should consider installing a 6'-8' fence between the courts and Ted Lane Field. Rich Annino will bring this matter to the Board of Selectmen.

b. Question of additional soccer programs:

It was stated that there were 2 soccer programs this summer. One that was a Park & Rec program, the other was put on by the school system. Mike Esposito will draft a letter to Pat Ciccone requesting information about the school program and where the money from this program went. There is also

concern that some of the coaches used for this program have been fired from jobs in other towns. The draft letter will be distributed to all Board members for their review prior

c. Award Presentation:

Darren Whitehouse was presented with an award for being Southeast Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations Darren.

6. Approval of Bills:

Upon a motion by Kevin Blair, seconded by Mike Esposito, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve payment of \$22.15 & \$66.45 (for June) and \$22.70 (for part of September) to Katie Kelemen for Secretarial duties.

7. Correspondence:

None.

8. Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Kevin Blair, seconded by Mike Esposito, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary