

Hopkinton Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2021

Present: Jim, Paula, Louise

Absent: Flo, Mark, Glenn, Ann, Paul

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. The September meeting minutes could not be approved as we did not have a quorum.

There was no 4th of July subcommittee meeting last month so no updates given.

Scarecrow contest had less participation than last year so a discussion was had about the potential cause. Next year we will push back the registration and judging dates by a week. Louise will reach out to groups and businesses asking them to participate. In possible, give out larger prizes to encourage participation. Winners are:

1st place Step It up Dolly by Storms Fitness

2nd place Stick Man by the Alcide Family

3rd place Wood Stacker by the Ekstrom/Walsh families

Halloween Holler was a great success. The weather was perfect for October gathering. The event was held outside this year due to Covid restrictions and held 1 week earlier. Next year it will be discussed if we continue to hold it the 3rd Saturday of October or continue the event on the Saturday prior Halloween. One lesson learned, do not pre-bag the smores ingredients. Marshmallows were hard and small candy bars needed to be pre-opened to save time. Thank you, Jim, for purchasing the long marshmallow sticks. This seemed to work quite nicely and when the child was done using the stick it was tossed into the fire to burn.

Paula has put out signs and notifications for the upcoming Jack-O-Lanterns on Veterans Wall in Hopkinton. We look forward to seeing all the creations.

Gingerbread House building event will be December 4th. Paula typically pre-assembles 40 houses for the children to decorate. This event always sells out. We may ask a volunteer to assist handing out the candy this year to avoid so many hands touching the bowls and spoons. It was decided after a discussion that the Recreation Committee will not host an adult gingerbread house contest. It was felt that there is not enough time to organize and create rules for the event. It was also questioned how many adults would have the time to make a house from scratch. It can be revisited next year.

Breakfast with Santa will be held December 11th. Due to the Covid virus it is preferred to spread out the diners as much as possible. It was suggested that we set up for roughly 30 people upstairs and also use the lower level for dining. This will eliminate the craft area typically used. As an alternative a craft to go kit can be given out or maybe use the library

community room. Paula will discuss this with them and reserve the room. It was also discussed maybe having Santa at the community room to allow for an overflow area while people are waiting to eat. If we use both floors, then, double the amount of number of volunteers will be needed. We will need 3 cooks, 8 servers that will allow 4 upstairs and 4 downstairs, 2 runners to deliver food at both locations, and ideally 4 cleaners to wash and reset the tables. Due to the high cost of food, it was discussed eliminating some of the food items. Instead, it was suggested we raise the price of the breakfast by \$1 and cap the family rate at \$25. Paula will reach out to a business who offered to sponsor an event to see if they would be interested in sponsoring \$500 toward the Breakfast with Santa. A 50%/50% raffle was also mentioned to help offset the costs.

Paula updated the committee on the progress of trying to eliminate the milfoil at Kimball Lake. Samples were taken and sent to DES. The report came back saying it seems most of the weeds are bladder wort. DES will be sending people out to examine the lake and come up with a plan on how to remove it. Hopefully it will be done this year. The Conservation Commission has also been involved and may take the lead on working with the DES. Samples were also taken at Kimball Pond swimming area. Because it is a public swimming area it falls under the State's Wetlands division. It was suggested that a pathway be cut through the milfoil to make it easier for swimmers to enter. This will require a special permit. Paula will follow up with them for the next steps to be taken.

The Turkey Trot will be held on Thanksgiving morning but the location has been changed to the high school. There is a discounted entry fee for people who pre-register online. The Lions will not be hosting the breakfast after the race.

A reminder that Chief Pecora's retirement party is Thursday October 28th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Louise Carr