

Hopkinton Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2022

PRESENT: Glenn S., Mark N., Paul O., Flo D., Louise C

GUEST: Joyce Bennett

ABSENT: Ann M., Jim L., Paula S.

November meeting minutes were approved as written.

The committee welcomed Joyce Bennett who has expressed interest in joining the recreation committee. She will discuss with Paula the process needed to file an application for approval to join the committee.

Alicia Presti, Human Services Director, wrote a letter thanking the committee for hosting Breakfast with Santa and for the donation toward Operation Christmas.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was a fabulous turnout for the gingerbread house event. Families who attended enjoyed decorating 50 houses.

Breakfast with Santa went well. Due to Covid-19 concerns this year's breakfast was an Elf-N-Go grab bag that allowed families to pick from multiple selections. If we need to do the same next year it was decided that the table layout was effective and allowed a steady flow. About 150 people were in attendance which is down from 350 in attendance last year. There were a few factors that was working against us this year. The freezing rain, the grab & go option rather than a sit-down meal and the Contoocook Chamber of Commerce had decided to have Santa visit the weekend before. Thank you to HR Clough for sponsoring the event and to Starbucks Coffee for providing all the items needed for the coffee station. Santa was in a sleigh borrowed by Forevergreen Farm that was set up in the barn. This created a festive atmosphere with the Christmas lights and decorations. It also provided shelter from the rain. Santa's elves passed out bags of crafts that could be completed at home. After the breakfast a pet photo with Santa was offered with a donation toward Operation Christmas. This was very popular and will do again next year.

Last year there had been interest expressed by a high school youth diversity group to work with the Recreation Committee to host an event. Paula reached out to the high school teacher, Danielle Meserve, who helped organize the youth diversity club last year to see if there was a new group this school year. This group did not reform. The recreation committee has decided to reach out to the extended community to see if there is any interest in organizing a multi-cultural day next year. Mark, Glenn & Flo each volunteered to talk with various groups and will report back to the committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Murder Mystery Dinner scheduled for February 26th was postponed again until September 17, 2022 due to the high levels of covid currently in NH. It is hoped by September masks will not need to be required and the event will be allowed to be held indoors. Paula will check with the Bartender and The Murder Mystery Co. to see if that date is available.

Easter egg hunt will be held April 9th. We will wait to see the number of covid cases have declined enough to allow the event to be held indoors or if we will do another drive through where families can get out of their vehicles to have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

It was discussed having St. Patrick's Day dance next year to allow time for planning. We would also like to hold more events at the town swimming hole and at the Kimball Cabins.

RECREATION DIRECTOR UPDATES:

Winter Wonderland Walks, tiny explorers and the junior explorers' programs have been very popular and will continue to hold similar events.

The holiday centerpiece workshop had a great turnout with 16 people in attendance. Five new people that had not attended other events at the Slusser Center came to the workshop.

First Day Hike at the Kimball Cabins was cancelled due to bad weather but 4 people did show up so Paula took them on a hike anyway. Snacks had been left outside on the porch for anyone who came later in the day for a hike.

Ice skating and winter fun events at Kimball Lake will be more impromptu with a few days' notice rather than trying to cancel events due to bad weather.

A babysitting class has been scheduled for March 25th and the class is already filled.

4th OF JULY SUBCOMMITTEE:

The subcommittee hasn't meet in a couple of months due to the holidays. A meeting will be scheduled for January 20th to get back on track. The topic of discussion will be a clear commitment from the Contoocook Chamber of Commerce on what they intend to participate in and the Recreation Committee will outline their role in the 4th of July event.

Louise informed the committee that the Select Board did make a motion to support the Houston Barn stabilization plan that will be presented to the voters at the town meeting. If this should pass then the barn will need to be completely cleaned out.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for January 25, 2022

Respectfully submitted by Louise Carr