

**Town of Chaplin
Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2019
Chaplin Town Hall**

Present: Treasurer Dave Stone, Secretary Chris Blair, Amelia Nelson, Monica Arbo

Citizens present: Mike Texera, Russ Johndrow, Aaron Hramiak, James Herrington

Call to order at 7:11 pm

Audience for citizens:

The citizens present were there to discuss Little League. Dave has spoken to Little League International and has the details about the defunct charter. The charter needs to be set up from scratch, including a new corporation with a board of directors/officers etc. It must be its own entity and is not under the auspices of the Rec Commission. Hampton and Chaplin kids can join the league at this time. James elaborated on the basic process for starting up the league again.

The next step is to hold an organizational meeting, volunteers must be named to form committees, then the public is invited to get involved, another meeting is held and board of directors elected, bank account is set up, the league will be incorporated, charter paperwork submitted. Player registration would be done in February. All else has to be done prior to February. James explained the timeline, they need teams with rosters by March. They can start with only one team. If the Chaplin league isn't set up, the other option is to join a league in an adjoining town, such as Willimantic or Mansfield. The members discussed at length the pros and cons of having a Chaplin league vs. an adjoining league. It was noted that Chaplin parents don't want to travel to another town to have their kids participate. Aaron said he has contacts in adjoining town's leagues.

Kids can play in the jurisdictions where they go to school. Historically, there were 7-9 teams when Chaplin had its former charter. James was president 6 years ago. He said advertisement is the biggest problem with getting enough team members. The members discussed team recruitment. Amelia asked about softball and Dave said that could be under the league's auspices as well.

Monica volunteered for the safety officer position. Dave and Aaron will do outreach immediately.

Committees were formed:

1st committee: Nominating membership constitution committee:

Dave Stone, Aaron Hramiak, Amelia Nelson, Mike Texera

2nd: Finance committee: Monica Arbo, Ian Ouimette

3rd: Equipment and Uniform Committee: Amelia Arbo, Amy Ouimette

4th: Umpire Selection Committee: Mike Texera, Monica Arbo

5th: Manager/Coach Selection Committee: Mike Texera, Dave Stone, Aaron Hramiak

6th: Team Sponsor Committee: Aaron Hramiak, Amelia Nelson

7th: Field Procurement/Facility Committee: Dave Stone

Board Election meeting date: Thursday Dec 5th, 7 pm

Dave reached out to some Hampton parents to see if they're interested and they are. The members discussed after-school recruitment activities.

3. Secretary's Report: Approval of Oct 17, 2019 meeting minutes: **Motion** to approve by Dave, 2nd by Monica all in favor, **motion** carried.

4. Treasurer's Report: Dave reported the general fund balance as of 11/21/19 is \$12,269.49 with an outstanding liability of \$5,000 due to state police for fireworks event. Special Revenue as of 11/21/19 is \$10,867.49 which includes all but around \$100 deposits for registrations. \$25 per shirt liability. Basketball expenses are not included.

5. Additions to Agenda: **Motion** by Dave to add item (d) to the agenda under Sports for Gymnastics, 2nd by Chris, all in favor, **motion** carried.

6. Sports:

- a. Baseball/Little League: **Motion** by Dave to donate \$1000 out of Special Revenue to the entity that is formed as the new local Little League, for startup costs. There are umpire fees etc. 2nd by Amelia, all in favor, **motion** carried.
- b. Soccer: Melissa Paradis is the coach and will run an indoor soccer clinic, proposed doing 4 sessions on Sundays. 1 session would be 4 weeks. Wants to start 2nd week of December. **Motion** by Dave to spend up to \$800 for one session as proposed by Melissa Paradis, 2nd by Amelia, all in favor, **motion** carried. **Motion** by Dave to spend up to \$200 on soccer equipment, 2nd by Chris, all in favor, **motion** carried. The members discussed combining other towns in a soccer league, discussed the history of soccer in town. The town teams never belonged to the federal league but did play surrounding towns informally and did belong to the state junior soccer association. (15 years ago or so). Discussed changing game day to Sunday to accommodate individual kids playing multiple sports. Russ offered to coach and donate uniforms for middle school age girls, and Mike will coach the boys' teams. Russ spoke about doing a 5th/6th grade team and a 7th/8th grade team, and suggested a winter/spring program. Dave mentioned not competing with Parish Hill's soccer program. Chris suggested that Russ come to the next meeting with an exact proposal.
- c. Basketball: Chris reported on the boys and girls teams that have formed. Schedules and rosters have all been set. The season starts 12/7/19 through 2/15/20. After that there will be tournaments, and in the past Chaplin Rec has hosted tournaments. Discussed concessions: could have parents or a Rec Comm member staff the concessions. Monica volunteered for concessions. Discussed a scheduling conflict with 2 teams scheduled to play at the same time and place. Chris is looking for backup people to do the time keeping and score keeping.

Chris proposed a Littles program, suggested doing it before soccer on Sundays, pre-K, K and grades 1-2 split up between 12:30 and 2 p.m. and scheduled for 12/15/19 - 2/16/20 for an 8 week session. **Motion** by Chris to charge \$40 for registration for preK - grade 2 for registration fees, 2nd by Monica, all in favor, **motion** carried. **Motion** by Chris to spend up to \$12 per basketball jersey, 2nd by Monica, all in favor, **motion** carried. Shirts will be printed with Chaplin Recreation.

- d. Gymnastics: Starts January 8th for 6 week sessions, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This was approved at the October meeting.

7. Activities:

- a. Cornhole league: Dave proposed an adult league for the winter using the Senior Center recreation room. Discussed the structure of the league, 8 weeks. Adult beverages are allowed. Schedule to be determined. \$40 registration fee per person for the 8 week program with cash prizes at the end of the season. **Motion** by Dave to begin a winter cornhole league at \$40 per player, 2nd by Amelia, all in favor, **motion** carried.

8. Building and Field:

- a. Disc Golf: **Motion** by Dave to spend up to \$150 from the General Fund for topsoil for T boxes, 2nd by Monica, all in favor, **motion** carried. Dave reported that there are 4-5 T boxes up and backfilled. A practice basket will be put up soon.
- b. Boy Scout Projects: Fish habitats from Aiden Stone are built and in progress for placement. Rec building project by Alec Zevetchin is also underway.

9. Other Business:

- a. Set 2020 meeting dates, time and place: **Motion** by Dave to hold meetings at Town Hall on the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm, 2nd by Monica, all in favor, **motion** carried.
- b. Recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to fill the Recreation Commission vacancy for the term of 7/1/19 - 6/30/21 by electing Russ Johndrow, **Motion** by Dave, 2nd by Amelia, all in favor, **motion** carried.

10. 2nd Audience for Citizens: None

11. Adjournment: **Motion** to adjourn by Amelia, 2nd by Monica, all in favor, **motion** carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Marsden, Recording Clerk