

Enfield Recreation Commission

July 21, 2021

Minutes

In-Person Meeting called to order at 6:14 p.m.

Location: Enfield Town Hall, 23 Main Street

Attendance: Bridget Labrie, Mascoma Valley Parks and Recreation; Matthew Young, Emily Curtis, Amy Stewart

Excused: Joel King, Keli Green, Ed Winters, Enfield Parks and Recreation

Business

Ms. Curtis opened the meeting with an apology extended to members for not having Zoom set up and expressed support to continue the hybrid approach moving forward.

The meeting minutes from 6/30/21 were approved unanimously with no amendments.

The Commission began the meeting with a discussion regarding possible ideas for the future of the Enfield Recreation and Mascoma Valley Parks and Recreation departments. Ideas discussed included what towns would plan to be served, what the position or positions might look like, goals that could support the development of the recreation department, and how the budget supports the current needs of the department.

They moved on to discuss different staffing structures and how each structure would be of benefit to support recreation activities in the community. They discussed suggestions for staffing - including retaining two part time positions, combining into one full time position, or combining to one full time position with the possibility of an intern or a seasonal position. They discussed the budgetary impact of each choice, including the lack of grant funding which was used to develop the original position as well as the withdrawal of financial backing from the Town of Canaan for the MVPR position.

Commission members agreed that transitioning the responsibilities currently split between two positions - Enfield Recreation and Regional Recreation, to one full time position would be of benefit for the future of the department. The discussion included goals of making the department more accessible to the community by having someone available to the public during normal operating hours of the town, having one coordinated effort for the flow of communications, developing a payment system, and developing opportunities for recreation to support town wide events.

After extensive discussion regarding the current structure and developing future goals, the members unanimously decided to discontinue any further inquiries with MYSL and to focus on the immediate budgetary needs for the department, developing the supporting structure for the current positions, and developing a proposal to bring to the Interim Town Manager, the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen, as appropriate.

Members present acknowledged that there were questions regarding departmental budgets, to whom proposals should be made, and what type of process may be involved with making changes and updates as they are developed and formally recommended by the Commission. Members acknowledged that the time to execute any proposals for change could extend beyond the next fiscal year and expressed interest in seeking advice so as to set measured and achievable goals for the department.

The Commission discussed inviting the Interim Town Manager to the next meeting to assist in understanding the recreation budget, the decision making process for a proposal, and a possible timeline associated with the decision making process.

Ms. Labrie stated that the Masterplanning Committee has invited members of the Recreation Commission to attend their meeting on Monday, August 23th at 6pm, to give input to the vision of recreation for the Town of Enfield. She encouraged attendance by any Commission members available so as to coordinate the vision of recreation in Enfield.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Curtis, Chair of Recreation Commission