

Town of Northfield Public Meeting – Minutes

Joel Roman

3/6/24
approved

Name of the board, committee, or commission: **Northfield Recreation Commission (NRC)**

Location of meeting (physical address): **69 Main Street, Northfield MA 01360**

Date and time the meeting convened: **February 7th 2024 at 6:30pm**

Name and contact info of the person filling out this form: Stacy Bond, reccom@northfieldma.gov

Members present: 1) Josh Roman (JR) - Chair; 2) Bob Emberley (BE) – Vice Chair;
3) Chelsea Depault (CD) – Treasurer; 4) Courtney Lawler (CL); and 5) Laura Fries (LF) Pool Advisory Group
Coordinator

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: 1) Stacy Bond (SB) - NRC Secretary/Director; 2) Gary Conaway – Summer Program;
and 3) David Thomas – Mountain Biking Club.

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- 1) Call to Order and determine quorum
 - A) 6:36pm Chair (JR) called to order and quorum present.
 - 2) Citizen Input/Guests
 - A) Gary Conaway (see under Summer Program)
 - B) David Thomas (see under Spring Mountain Biking)
 - 3) Review and approval of minutes from Jan 3rd, 2024.
 - A) Motion made to approve minutes by BE, seconded by CL, vote all yea.
 - 4) Chairs Report
 - A) Nothing extra.
 - 5) Umass Hockey group trip
 - A) Over 30 attendees and it was an excellent game!
 - B) It was noted that the girls basketball team had hoped for a UMASS basketball game like last year. Also, resident Pat Shearer had mentioned to SB that the NRC used to do trips to Red Sox games, but now the transportation costs are so high!
 - 6) Pickleball
 - A) Going well. Roster is capped at 50 and is at about 40. SB needed to purchase better indoor balls. And a request was granted to allow Pickleball to start at 6:30pm instead of 7pm on Thursdays, but it was expressed that we might need that half hour back during the winter.
 - 7) Adult exercise class update
 - A) Ten attendees recently! The most yet. Sometimes it just takes time and consistency to get programs going.
 - 8) Pool Advisory Group
 - A) Will be doing an open swim at the YMCA in April, but need lifeguards!
 - 9) Treasurer's Report
 - A) About \$13,000 in revolving. Discussed line items.
 - 10) FY 2025 budget

- A) JR and SB met with Finance Committee and we discussed increases and seemed to go well.
- 11) Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Update
- A) BE reports CPC meeting last night. About 5-6 requests were made, and all were awarded funding except one.
- B) CPC will fund \$15K towards the outdoor pavilion at NES that the NRC gave their support for. LF will likely be point person for the project.
- 12) Outdoor Pickleball court
- A) BE says not happening at this time.
- 13) School pavilion
- A) (See under CPC update)
- 14) Adult pickup basketball
- A) Both men's and women's pick-up basketball are going very well!
- 15) Latin Dancing
- A) Coming up soon! SB reconnecting with Jesse and McCoy of Latin Dance Made Easy and the Brewery at Four Star via email to make sure everything is a go and to push advertising.
- 16) Basketball update
- A) Going well! Teams will be signing up for the Vernon Tournament and lots of practices and games. SB counted 71 kids registered and some kids from Gill. SB will reach out to Coach Thayer at Pioneer to see about a clinic. SB will also reach out to Pioneer to see about holding our games there on Saturdays next year.
- 17) Cheerleading update
- A) Going well! Discussion about a "Mini Cheer Camp" TBD.
- 18) Indoor Soccer update
- A) Seems to be going well! The cap was 12 kids.
- 19) Summer Program 2024
- A) Gary Conaway, who was the Assistant Director last year, is willing to be rehired again this summer, and will take over as Director, since Hannah (Bedard) Bridgman is unable to do all five weeks as Director again this summer.
- B) SB contacted employees Matthew Singh and Megan Adams from last year to verify they are also willing to be rehired this summer, and see if either of them are willing to step into the Assistant Director position. This will leave us looking for just one additional councilor, and SB will get it advertised ASAP and get a screening/hiring committee together. With that, and registration opening beginning of March, we are in good shape!
- 20) Spring Mountain Biking
- A) David Thomas has volunteered to fill a gap this season in our spring programming for kids in grades 3rd to 6th and is willing to coach a Mountain Biking Club! It would focus on safety and an introduction to basic skills. Can run two "practices" during the week behind NES and one trip to the Montague Plains on the weekend. Start middle of April to beginning of June. Cost \$0. Kids need access to a mountain bike and helmet. The committee is excited to give this a try!
- 21) Adult softball team
- A) No sign ups as of yet. If not enough interest, and alternative idea is to maybe scrimmage another group/team when we switch to softball for the FREE Adult Pick Up series.
- 22) New Program ideas
- A) Ping Pong?
- B) Dungeons and Dragons?
- 23) Directors Report
- A) Grand reopening of Pioneer's newly redone Auxiliary Gym is tentatively April 27th or 28th. Patricia Kinsella requested that the NRC and Bernardston Rec be involved somehow.

B) A resident request for youth volleyball in the fall: SB will email Pioneer to see if we can use their volleyball equipment?

C) A resident offered ideas on next FREE Adult pick up sport: Ultimate Frisbee or soccer.

D) Brian Winslow mentioned a 3 vs 3 hoop tournament Mar 2nd at the Fieldhouse in NH, but coaches feel they have enough going on.

E) SB revisited snow cancelations with the school and will be conversing with the DPW as well to try to facilitate whether the NRC can easily proceed despite a snow day or not. Will continue to coordinate with NES on those days as well. Biggest issue, besides safety, is making sure the parking lot is able to be cleared of snow before the start of school the next day.

F) SB has plans of attending other Rec commission meetings in local towns, namely Greenfield. Good learning experience.

G) SB thinks that youth basketball is probably our most expensive youth sport and thinks we should be increasing the fees for it next year from \$30 & \$45 to \$40 & \$55 to help defray costs. Committee unanimously agreed.

24) Yearly dinner/dance/block party/food truck festival

A) Nothing new

25) Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance

A) none

26) Scheduled next meeting for March 6th, 2024 at 6:30pm at Town Hall

27) Adjourn

A) A motion was made to adjourn at 7:45pm by CL, seconded by JR, vote all yea.

*Some common abbreviations: NES = Northfield Elementary School, NRC = Northfield Recreation Commission, CPC = Community Preservation Committee, and DPW = Department of Public Works