

**Meeting of Mendham Township Recreation Committee  
May 8, 2019, 7:30 pm**

**Attendees:**

Adam Dubeck	Terry Gogerty
Amalia Duarte (MTC liaison)	Trish O'Brien
Diane Tolley	Eric Mauriello
Grace Chapis	David Guida (interim Recreation Director)
Rochelle Abrams	Kimberly Gavagan

Motion to approve meetings from April meeting – moved and approved.

**Parks and fields updates:**

- Baseball backstop -- Installation has been expediated and will be done in June; money being used from last year's capital fund.
- Ralston Parking – Going with a quick fix for now (bollards in middle and side). Discussed encouraging people to park at Wysong and walk over via path (may need signage to help direct).
  - David asked people on the committee to document the parking issues with photos so that a permanent fix can be presented as part of a budget request to the Mendham Twp Committee next year.
  - Parking lot needs redesign – widened, longer, drainage, etc.
- Mowing—Terry presented photos taken of mowing done at Ralston field Monday. Grass was wet, field saturated, extensive damage done to field.
  - Contractor was the one who mowed – group discussed this should never have happened, it is basic knowledge not to mow in saturated conditions. Minimally, contractor should have seen tracks on first pass and stopped.
  - David requested Terry send photos to him as documentation; he will raise with Debbie and request a letter from city attorney to contractor RE: paying for damage to the field/fence.
  - Also noted that this contractor should be officially warned in writing.
  - David will report back.
  - The group also discussed the possibility of sports organizations mowing the fields on their own (paid by the Town). David noted this could be more costly.
  - Eric expressed concern that the contractor not mow the fields if they'd damage them.
  - More discussion on this to come.
- Basketball hoop funding:
  - Discussed \$7K in funds sitting in account for many years
  - Funds were to be allocated to a basketball hoop, but after researching, there is not a good spot in town to put one (both MTES and MTMS have them).
  - Discussed possibly finding space at new playground – to right of playground? No tree removal needed. David to look into getting quotes for a half court there, as well as a second price to install lights. Will report back.

**Ralston Playground:**

- Grand re-opening:
  - New date is 5/17 with rain date of 5/18
  - Confirming entertainment, including possibly aerial trapeze artists
- Trish noted that straps are missing on the special needs swing; David to look into
- Also asking about depth and type of mulch being used (is it “playground mulch?”)

**Girls Night Out report:**

- Fun event, lower turnout (about 50 vs. 80 last year), seemed some were unaware it was happening
  - David still trying to reach out to schools (Sal Constantino) RE: placing flyers for Township rec events in school backpacks. Have been told no in past.
- Event lost about \$400 but have lessons learned to apply to next year
- Discussion about venue: Country Club is nice, but could we find a less expensive location?

**Scholarships:**

- Packet distributed.
- Please review and provide your ranking to David by end of week.

**Patriots Race update:**

- Signs ordered
- Please reach out to local businesses or groups that you have contacts with to inquire about sponsoring the race
- Bagels covered by Market Basket
- Simple Coffee provided coffee last year

**Brookside Beach update:**

- Dredging to take place in late May/early June
- Targeting June 15 as official public opening (same day as Patriot’s Race)
- Needs to be open for fourth-grade party on 6/10 – David to push for earlier dredging with Debbie so that the beach can open on time
- Proposing a monthly bulletin to promote events at the beach
- Morning lap swim – adult exercise. 6:30-8:30 a.m.
- The beach made \$ last year with good numbers (though hours were very limited during the week.
- Discussed pricing is good, but fees should be higher for non-residents
- Discussed reaching out to summer camps to see if they’d want to use the beach (Boro camp, MCAW, Mr. Gallo’s camp, Mendham Country Day camp, Morristown Beard, etc.)
- Discussed “senior swim” and “craft beer night” for adults

**Branding/signs:**

- New logo approved by Committee
- Recommend having a contest to come up with a tagline

**Misc:**

- Future event ideas:
  - Discussed possible “Screen Free Night” at MT Library
  - Discussed how Rec Comm used to sponsor at 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade dance at MTMS, was very popular. Other schools were invited. Something to keep in mind for future?
  - Discussed possible fall events:
    - ✓ Trunk or treat event geared toward younger children
    - ✓ Haunted trail event geared toward older kids / adults. Drama Dept at HS help?
    - ✓ David will start exploring both

Next meeting: Wed., 6.12 at Mendham Town Hall, 7:30 pm