

Meeting of Mendham Township Recreation Committee
Sept. 16, 2020, 7 pm

Attendees:

Amalia Duarte (MTC co-liaison)	David Guida (Recreation Director)
Terry Gogerty	Jordan Orlins (MTC co-liason)
Adam Dubeck	Kimberly Gavagan
	Diane Tolley

*NOTE: I arrived about 20 minutes late; notes only reflect the later agenda items.

Brookside Beach update:

- Looking into ice skating at Brookside Beach

Capital planning:

- Capital planning – David to begin getting quotes in Sept-Oct for capital planning due in Nov.
 - Fencing issues at fields are a priority (Ralston)

Fields:

- Carl/baseball liaison – wants to focus location on Ralston. Fields ignored during COVID, overgrown. Carli would like to maintain Ralston as primary field for baseball.
- Discussion that Township will add Wysong and Brookside to landscaping contract.
- JCPL was supposed to come out post-storm to give a quote for electricity. Amalia noted that Robert Flynn is the town's JCPL rep. If David sends an email to her, she can forward it along.

Events:

- Meadowood Hike – 10 people signed up
- 9/29 – Fall concert at Ralston, Brian Kirk & the Jerks, 6:30 pm
- Playground is complete – ordering a couple more benches. Discussed putting up a sign thanking all donors.
- Doggie Dip at Brookside Beach – very popular. Will do one more in early October.
- Exploring “Halloween in the Park” – pumpkin carving, possibly at Brookside field.

Community garden:

- Amalia noted she met with HS students interested in creating a community garden behind the tennis courts on Mount Pleasant. Looking to get a resolution on the Twp Committee agenda exploring the idea as a starting point.

Student representatives:

- Looking to create more defined roles for next round of student representatives.
- Adam suggested giving them a project to do (discussed prior idea of having them video/photograph the parks to help “market” them on social media)
- Discussed looking for students with ties to Scouts, or other influencer who can pull people/students in to volunteer at events.

- Terry suggested someone looking to take on a project as part of IB fulfillment
- Diane noted that even without clear roles, just being on the committee, coming to meetings and observing the process, understanding what it means to serve as a community volunteer, has value.

Discussion: Carry in/carry out policy at parks

- Jordan proposed moving toward National Park model of carry in/carry out of trash in local parks. Trash draws animals, insects, etc.
- Takes onus off DPW to pick up/dispose of trash
- Would involve removing trash cans from parks and playground
- David wondered if it is worth having at least one trash can at fields that hold sporting events. (Will littering be a concern with no trash can?)
- Discussed possible signage at parks explaining/encouraging visitors to “do your part.”
- Jordan noted that we can also communicate the policy on websites (Hike Mendham, etc.)

Move to adjourn/carried