

**September 18, 2023 Mendham Township Recreation Committee
Board Meeting Agenda – 7:00 PM Via Zoom**

**Trish O’Brien
David Guida
Eric Mauriello
Terry Gogerty
Jane Incardone
Sarah Neibart**

I. Summer Review

- a. Patriots Race
- b. Fourth of July
- c. Brookside Beach

i. Parties

With the concerns about the closures for private parties. Five parties this season. Some patron complaints about closures.

EM: Possibly limit parties to weekdays or weekends off hours. Communicate upfront that there will be weekends. Set a limit of the number of days where there can be parties.

Jl: Ensure that the notice goes out about the different parties

TO: Is it possible to just section off a part of the beach. Steer them to after hours parties.

Possibly incentivize the parties during the day

Shift Hours

ii. Staff Salaries

Between minimum wage

- d. National Night Out
- e. Kids Triathlon
- f. Clam Bake
- g. Senior Programming

II. Upcoming Events/Programs

- a. September 23 and 30 – Doggy Dips
- b. September 26 – Brian Kirk and the Jirks Community Concert
- c. October 3 or 10 – Senior Luncheon
- d. October 20 – Haunted Hike
- e. October 29 – Halloween Costume Contests
- f. Ski Club 2024

Review of needs and dares for upcoming events. Invited Rec Committee members to set table up at Community Concert, serve as judges at the Halloween Costume contest, and serve as scarerers at the Haunted Hike.

Mosle Update

SN: Appreciated the work that the Recreation Committee as a whole has put into this project. Disappointed with what has transpired. Doesn't want project to end as this is an important project for the community. Apologized for any disrespect the committee may feel.

EM: Didn't hear anything official. It is disappointing that our process has morphed into another project. It seems like it is being taken offline, have another group and spend more time. This feels like an excuse. This feels like dysfunction. We watched this during Pitney – where it took arson to make a decision. The Township Committee should make decisions in either direction, knowing that people either way people will be upset. It feels like this is a way to buy time and move the project out of the public eye.

TO: Agreed with both Sarah and Eric. Having been in town since Pitney. This is a project for recreation and we are passionate about recreation to grow community in a healthy way. We need to maintain and improve all of our recreational facilities. It is important when you are in a town. We did a great job of being transparent and holding meetings that were held, and because there are 5-7 people who don't like the project it was stopped. We just want safety in our parks. We need to spend money in order to improve facilities. It feels like everyone else's opinion is more important than ours. There is not the same level of importance of recreation as other committees in town with their opinions on this project (enviro, planning board). We are being undermined by other committees. This is all about a basic improvement for safety. This is what happened during the playground.

EM: This is a fundamental project in Mendham Township that recreation is not prioritized.

Jl: Can we give a brief summary of how we got here. Last I thought there was a vote and the financials were in place.

DG:

- Resolution was passed – needed Environmental Impact Study and Planning Board Review
- EIS from Princeton Hydro was clean, but there was opposition during meeting
- Then during planning board, questions for clarification arose
- TC did not want to pass project without a full EIS
- TC did wanted to table the project

SN: A couple members of the Township Committee did not want to make a stance because of the timing in the community. Working group was a way to keep the project alive

Field Usage Requests

Ordinance Changes were discussed. Recently, we have been making an attempt to be more aggressive in our completion of the field usage process to be more thorough and in line with the ordinance.

EM: Gathered background check results. It is not normal to have to provide the physical documents with the background checks. It is not practical to have to do this. It is not an easy ask. The NJ Youth Soccer Association does not allow anyone of the field who has not passed a background check.

The team schedules are also very difficult to get. There are constantly changes.

TG: Echoed concerns.

DG: We are working on clarification on whether the spread sheet is acceptable or if we need the copies. We also understand field schedule changes. We need the general assignments with who the coaches are for each team at each time.

EM: Do we still have access to our time blocks if they are not assigned

DG: Yes, blocks are still yours as we understand changes happen with weather, games, etc.

Capital Budget 2024

I. 2024 Capital Budget Requests from Sports Leagues

Thank you to the Mendham Chester Little League for their upgrades that they are working on. There was a concern brought up about the permanent fencing and it changing the view when driving by.

TG: The outfield fence makes it safer with the other programs because people walk into the field all the time.

EM: Might need to move the smaller programs in the outfield.

Pickleball and Tennis

- a. Meadowood
- b. Mt. Pleasant
- c. Combo

EM: There is traction with rackets at Mt. Pleasant. If we don't have enough money to put tennis in one place and pickleball in one place – we should keep it at Mt. Pleasant. The garden at Mt. Pleasant is lost. The issue is we don't have enough space to make one thing good, Lets make what we have as good as possible. Leave Meadowood unutilized.

TO: Can we have a referendum with everything that we want done to see what the town wants.

DG: Referendum sets a precedent and wouldn't necessarily allocate the money

EM: Smaller project works better

TG: The garden is terrible. Build pickleball on one side and keep the existing tennis.

EM: Agreed Great area for it. Make it a racket center. Maybe move garden to Meadowood, it is a more chill place.

DG: Will float this idea to TC before quotes, etc.

2024 Capital Budget Requests from Sports Leagues is forthcoming.