

SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING (Hybrid Meeting In-person and zoom)
September 8, 2021

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 in the first-floor meeting room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT.

ATTENDANCE:Brian Casinghino, Chairman
.....Bill Boucher, Vice Chairman (zoom)
.....Jay Bombard
.....Sam Lombardo
.....Stephen Marchillo
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT:Stephanie Dolan
.....Andrew Joly
.....Anthony Migliozi

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Peter Leclerc, Director
.....Road Race Committee: Neil Altieri , Collin Sequin,
Adam Hushin, Joseph Hicks, Chrissy Kiddy, Jesse Howes, Kevin Cummings, Sarah Sperazza

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Brian asked Peter to read the agenda into the minutes:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Public Input
- C. Review of Minutes
- D. Program Reports
- E. New Business
 - 1. Election of Officers
 - 2. Road Race
- F. Adjournment

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

MINUTES: Bill made a motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting August 25, 2021. Dave seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Peter reviewed a few items from the reports. He is really happy with how things came together; we were short staffed with expanded camps and full attendance. The feedback and comments were very positive.

Donna's report talks about the Special Needs Bowling Buddies group which is still doing a weekly zoom with different activities. It's critical that this group has socialization with their core group. Next month the special needs bowling program will start again at Spare Time. The group is very excited about being able to get together again. Peter doesn't know if Special Needs Olympics will be put on but our program will run. Donna also talks about the adult fitness programs and Ready To Run (couch to 5K style program) which has been very successful. Some of the participants will be running in the Road Race.

Brian said that the programs run by Joseph Hicks have had very good responses.

Brian asked about the tennis program. Peter said the program structure has been changed and it has been very successful with full attendance and requests for more programs. USTA has a facility grant, which is now suspended due to Covid. Hopefully this grant will be reintroduced and USTA will be able to provide us with funds to help with the renovations of the tennis courts. The renovations will be taking place on the courts between the middle school and McAlister. If the facility grant program is started again, it might be prudent to wait for our renovations until next spring. USTA will assist us with design aspects for the courts.

Suffield on Green will be held this coming weekend and Peter is looking for volunteers to man the Selectman's booth. There will be a master plan rendering to show the public to get feedback and hopefully support. Brian reviewed the previous meeting with the public in regard to the Bridge Street Park and he would like to see as many commission members as possible volunteer. Peter will send out an email to commission members as well as members of the design review board to see who can attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers: Brian said the election of officers is normally done in June but it had to be postponed. Brian asked for nominations for chairman, vice-chairman and clerk.

Jay nominated Brian for chairman. Dave seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dave nominated Bill for vice-chairman. Jay seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dave nominated Sam for clerk. Stephen seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Road Race: Brian asked the road race committee members to introduce themselves and thanked them for their time and effort.

Peter said we are 60% above registrations at this point in the past. We usually have around 50 sign-ups on the day of the race and since the weather will be good, he expects more. He thanked the road race committee for their efforts in getting registrations, the hard work they have put into this shows.

Peter passed out a packet with the road race job descriptions and discussed what each job entailed. He also gave the location of registration, first aide, refreshment table, race start area, etc. There will be FA questions cards given to volunteers so they can answer questions from the public. He asked if anyone had a preference and if they wanted to run or just help out. The setup procedure and time was discussed in detail with those volunteers coming at 7 a.m. and the other volunteers coming at 7:30 a.m.

The set-up, registration, water stops, lead car, etc. was reviewed and questions were asked with Peter describing each area as to what is to be done and what will be happening. There will be volunteers from the high school, the commission, the road race committee and the public.

The Kids fun run will start at 9 a.m., the 10K race will start at 9:30 a.m. and the 5K race starts at 10 a.m. The 5K race will go up Hill and come back down, so in theory the 2 races will finish together. Anyone running with pets or a stroller will be put in the back so as not to interfere with faster runners. There will be a moment of silence at 9:20. Chris Kellogg, from 94.7 Morning Show, will be our announcer.

Suffield Village Market will provide snacks, water and will staff the table; Artioli Dodge will provide the cars for lead and trail car; Dick's Sporting Goods will provide gifts for the kids, and Select Physical Therapy is sponsoring. PeoplesBank is a key sponsor and without them we wouldn't have the race we have, so we want to make sure their signage is highlighted.

The commission and road race committee discussed and asked questions about the various components of the event, timing of the event, and physical location.

The race shirt is blue but many runners upgraded to the performance shirt. The volunteer shirt is red. Peter passed out gray baseball caps with logo the commission members and road race committee.

ADJOURNMENT: Jay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Sam Lombardo, Interim Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting