

HARTFORD PARKS & RECREATION MINUTES

Date | time 02/02/2023 | Meeting called to order by David M. Crocco Jr.

Commission Members In Attendance

Allison Childs, Nikki Boyle, Tom McCleary, Mike Vanasse, David M. Crocco Jr.

Commission Members Absent

Brett Mayfield

Others in Attendance

Scott Hausler, Director

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by David Crocco *Motion made by David Crocco + 2nd to approve minutes* Seconded by: Mike Vanasse

In Favor unanimous Opposed none

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? approved

Citizen Comments

none

Commission Member Comments

None

Directors Report

Scott briefly reviewed some of the significant activity for the past month. *

Scott highlighted admissions, skate rentals, skates sharpened and that passholder admissions to the Barwood Arena was over 600 visits.

There are just over 6 or 7 weeks of skating left for the season. Scott briefly touched on improvements that could be made to the Barwood Arena in the future, for energy efficiency. He stated that the Barwood Arena could be used for sheltering people from very hot weather in the future if the need should arise.

The ice fishing derby scheduled for February 4 has been postponed until February 18, due to cold weather forecast for the 4th.

The Mother/son, father/daughter dance is scheduled for February 11 at Dothan Brook School. This will be the 1st year for the mother/son dance.

*See attached Director's report for complete summary.

Old Business*

Nothing new to report on ordinance for marijuana use in town parks.

Administrative Manual - David Crocco pointed out a couple of typographical errors and some headings that could be incorporated under other headings (see p. 4 and 5). A motion made by Nikki Boyle and seconded by Mike Vanasse to approve the Administrative Manual as presented and with edits as suggested. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was a discussion about a follow-up *community survey* to gain a sense of what the residents of the Town of Hartford want for a Community Center. David Crocco suggested that community members should be encouraged to give input into the design of a survey. With input from the community, such as, what questions should be asked, length of survey, etc. results of survey would more accurately reflect what residents desire is for a community center. There was no decision made on doing a community wide survey. But once a survey is done, results of the survey will play a significant role in informing any recommendations the Recreation Department makes in the design of a community center.

New Business

None

Next Meeting

March 9, 2023, at 5 pm, Rm. 2, Municipal Bldg.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: David Crocco, Jr. Seconded by: Tom McCleary. All in Favor: Unanimous. Opposed: None

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: ALLISON CHILDS
David M. Crocco Jr. @ 5:45 pm

Seconded by: Mike Vanasse

All in Favor: all

Opposed: none

Respectfully submitted by: SEE PAGE 1 Tom McCleary Date: February 2, 2023

Hartford Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Chair: David M. Crocco Jr. (7/25/2024)

Clerk: Tom McCleary (03/08/2024)

Member: Allison Childs (04/04/2025)

Member: Nikki Boyle (04/04/2025)

Member: Michael Vanesse (05/02/2025)

Member: Brett Mayfield (05/16/2025)

Vacant: (1 position)

**Parks & Recreation Department
Significant Activity Report
January 19th, 2022
Respectfully Submitted By: Scott Hausler, Director**

Program and Park Highlights

- Hartford Parks & Recreation received \$4200 dollars from Mascoma Bank to support 2023's youth sports, special events and programs. We are grateful for Mascoma Bank for their continues support.
- The Department held our first After School at Whaleback Skiing Program. We transport participants to Whaleback with our van where they receive a lesson and ski afterwards. We have 12 youth enrolled in the program.
- With the start of our K2 and Pre-K Youth Basketball this past week, we now have 215 youth participating in basketball.
- Our first MLK Pop Up event took place on Martin Luther King Holiday. We maxed out with 12 youth in the program.
- Lego Club, Boardgame Club continue throughout the week. We also started our Learn to Swim Program with White River School. This is a collaborative with the Upper Valley Aquatic Center and Parks & Recreation.
- Our Kids Paper Crafting Class led by our own Karen McNall made a total of 34 all occasion cards that the class donated to the Upper Valley Haven.
- The Department is busy planning for the upcoming No School Fun Day and Ice Fishing Clinic scheduled for January 24th. Additionally, we are preparing for the Annual Free Youth Ice Fishing Derby at Dewey's Pond on February 4th and the RedZone 5K and Valentines Dance for Daughters and Sons scheduled for February 11th. Ledyard Bank is again the lead sponsor of the upcoming RedZone 5K on Saturday, February 11th. The \$700 sponsorship supports the race with proceeds benefiting the Brian Hanson Scholarship Fund.
- The Parks & Recreation Commission continue to review the potential updates to the Parks Ordinance and at their last meeting the board reviewed the Parks & Recreation Administrative Manual.
- At the recent Hartford Tree Board Meeting, January 17th the members discussed the submission of an Urban Forestry Canopy Grant for invasive plant control and new tree planting. They also discussed continued treatment of several public Ash Trees to combat the Emerald Ash Borer which has made its way into the central Vermont.
- As of January 19th we have sold 1,527 daily admissions, rented 658 skates, sharpened 110 pair of skates and have had 140 Friday noontime hockey players. Passholder admissions has reached over 600 visits.

**Parks & Recreation Department
Significant Activity Report
February 3rd, 2023
Respectfully Submitted By: Scott Hausler, Director**

Program and Park Highlights

- Due to the extreme cold weather predictions for the February 4th Ice Fishing Derby, we have rescheduled the event for Saturday, February 18th. This is a free youth event located at Dewey's Pond in Quechee and will start at 7am and run until 12noon. This year's event is sponsored by 802 Credit Union, Blood's Catering & Party Rentals, Steve's Bait Shop, Ace Blueprint Service, Mascoma Bank and Claremont Savings Bank.
- We currently have 75 runners pre-registered for the upcoming Ledyard RedZone 5K scheduled for Super Bowl Saturday. The event starts at 10:30am with the start and finish taking place at Dothan Brook School. We anticipate registrations will continue to come through leading up to the race and we hope to have close to 200 runners this year. The lead sponsor is Ledyard Bank along with Casella Waste Management.
- A "Call for Artists" was sent out for the upcoming Summer Concert Series with. Applicants submit the application with a sample of their musical performance. A panel for the summer concerts will review the applicants and make recommendations for this upcoming season. Four of the July Concerts will focus on "July is Parks & Recreation Month" and feature added activities and possible food vendors.
- The Department continues to promote upcoming activities. Our Sweetheart Valentines Dances for Daughters and Sons is schedule for February 11th, Kids Paper Crafting and Card Making Class on February 22nd and the Vermont Flower Show in Essex Jct. on March 3rd.
- Our Adult Open Basketball continues. This is for all skill levels 18 years of age and older. Participants purchase a season pass or pay a drop-in fee per-visit.
- Indoor Ultimate Frisbee continues at Hartford High School, Sundays from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. This is an adult program for participants 18years of age or older. Register at Hartfordrec.com.
- Noontime Hockey at WABA continues Fridays with 20 to 25 regular attendees.
- Over the past two weekends we had 302 skaters during weekend public skating and rented a total of 116 pairs of skates and sharpened 23 pair of skates for customers.
- There are roughly 7 weeks left of WABA arena operations as our season begins to wind down. So far this season we have completed 378 reservations for the ice arena with 1016 hours of usage.
- Learn to Swim at UVAC, Lego Club, Board Game Club, Whaleback Ski Program all continue.
- Staff have started planning process for summer programs and offerings. Advertising for seasonal hires at the Sherman Manning Aquatic Facility and Summer Camp Ventures will begin soon and at our Staff Meeting this past Tuesday, we discussed the development of the Spring and Summer Program Guide.