There was a Special meeting of the above referenced committee held on November 2, 2020.

Committee members present: Louis Blumenfeld, Paula Jones, Gail Nolan, Orindel Kidd, Lincoln Anderson (joined 8 pm)
Absent: Keith Temple, Sarai Peart
Also present were: David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

October Report: Dave Melesko provided a brief overview, highlighting the following:

- Family Bingo was held outside in the courtyard on Saturday, October 3rd with 17 participants.
- Pumpkin Carving was held on Friday, October 12th with 23 Bloomfield youth and their parents.
- Trunk or Treat (Drive-Thru) was held on Friday, October 23rd, with 120 participants. Children enjoyed trick or treating from inside their cars, with all items being placed in the trunks of the cars.
- A Virtual 5K Road Race is scheduled for Veteran’s Day. Proceeds will benefit the Bloomfield Food Bank and Sailor, Soldier, & Marine Fund.
- The Leisure Services, Senior Services, and Social & Youth Services departments with other town departments and local groups assisted with the coordination of the Mayors’ United Food Distribution Program. This was sponsored through the Department of Agriculture’s Farms to Families program. Distributions were held at Rehoboth Church of God on 10/9, 10/16, and 10/23. Over 3,000 boxes of food were distributed. The final distribution on 10/30 was cancelled.
- The department co-sponsored 2 hikes in October with the Wintonbury Land Trust. The October 24th hike featuring Wilcox Park and the Bartlett Tower ruins in Tariffville had 36 participants; the snowy Halloween Hike at LaSalette Open Space had 12 participants. COVID-19 protocols were observed; participants expressed their appreciation to the Town and Land Trust for the chance to enjoy group hikes.
- The department has purchased a “smart” aerial drone. Before the drone can be used, any operators need to take FAA classes, and, per the Risk Manager, the Town needs to develop a policy for drones. Matthew Mace is working on a policy.
- Looking ahead: A brief holiday lighting event is being considered, but the holiday parade will likely not occur due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Old Business

- Current Projects –
  - Reservoir 2 – The coordinates delineating the 80 acres to be included in the lease have been sent to the state. Once the lease comes back from the state, the Town will do a final review. Dave Melesko reported that a subgroup of the Flying Club now wants to stay on the field, but, as reported in September, the Flying Club has already largely removed its “footprint” from the site. Dave will listen in on an upcoming call between the Club subgroup and the State.
o Pershing Park Playscape – The playscape (for 5 – 12 year olds) is scheduled for installation during the second week of December.
o Farmington River Park – The environment packet by GeoQuest is complete and will be included in the RFP for house demolition. Two bids – one with and one without keeping the house basement intact – will be requested to determine the cost difference. (The Recreation Committee had originally expressed a preference for preserving the basement for storage since the basement was dry.) Dave indicated he will present the RFP to the Committee before sending it out.

• Program Updates - Fall/Winter Programs and Special Events
  o Since the Department/Land Trust jointly-sponsored Nature programs via Zoom have been successful (with 50 – 80 participants), Matthew Mace and Sharon Mann are in discussions for a late winter/early spring series.
  o Dave reported that the Creative Arts and Sports Activity Clubs that the department tried did not have good participation. The department is still planning on a modified winter break program.

• Capital Budget (2021/2022 FY) – The Capital Budget for the next fiscal year was briefly discussed as the Budget process is just starting.

New Business
  • None

Public Comments - None

Comments from the Committee - None

Approval of Minutes – The October 5, 2020 minutes were approved (with one abstention by Jones, who was not in attendance).

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. Our next meeting will be on December 7 at 7:30 pm via Zoom Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Jones