

**ASHFORD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES, MONDAY 8/8/22 6:00 PM**  
**HYBRID: RECREATIONS OFFICE AND ZOOM ONLINE**

**1. Call to Order 6:08**

- a. **Introductions/Attendance:** Sheryl York, Amanda Holden, Dave Roston, Dan Kehoe, Neil Gordon, Andrew Doering, and Leslie Bizilj. Member of the public: Barbara Renna.
- b. **Financial Report:** Current fiscal year is looking good. Started 7/1/2022 and will include Summer Camp and BBQ.
- c. **Public to be heard:** Barbara Renna would like to volunteer once a month to run an English Country Dancing Program. She asked the commission if this is an activity they would be interested in hosting. She would need help locating space and advertising from the recreation department. A discussion was held regarding the time and whether it would interfere with other dance programs already provided by the Park and Rec. In addition, there was discussion as to why this is a Park and Rec sponsored activity and whether she could rent a space through the town hall. Dancing falls under a recreational pursuit and would be similar to other dance programs run through Parks and Recreation. Liability was discussed as well as the space needed (whether Senior Center of Knowlton Town Hall). Sherry mentioned advertising in the Ashford Citizen and Ashford Park and Rec page. In addition, a waiver of liability will be required of the participants in the group.
  - i. Motion made to start English Country Dancing Program once a month. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**2. Old Business**

- a. **Summer Program Data:** Overall the summer programs ran well and made a profit. Summer Camp had over 25 campers and a profit of 2,000 dollars. The Music in the Park series has a total expenditure of 3,600, which was a \$100 dollar loss. The BBQ, which was hosted by Ashford Park and Rec, had a total profit of \$345 dollars.
- b. **Evaluate Bike Camp, Summer Camp, Swim Lessons, and Concerts:** Bike Camp had 21 campers and made a total profit of \$947 dollars. Swim lesson information to be presented at future meeting.

**3. New Business**

- a. **Camp Out:** 8/19-8/20, 5:00-12:00. \$20.00 per family. Currently, no public RSVPs, and last year ended up only having the recreation commission as participants. Will evaluate this event as the date approaches.
- b. **Ashford After School Program:** Dave Roston has been working hard to meet with other Park and Recreation departments in surrounding towns. In addition to the Youth and Social Services Director and the First Selectman.
  - i. Currently there are 30 families who are in need of this program and all of the people involved so far in the preparatory process agree that this is a significant area of need in the Ashford community.

- ii. Dave is currently waiting on the insurance cost quote in order to determine the cost per child.
  - iii. The plan is to follow state guidelines, but not be a licensed daycare facility. Background checks and fingerprinting (through state police) of employees will be conducted to ensure the children's safety.
  - iv. In the future detailed presentations will need to be conducted with the Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Board of Education to guarantee this support.
  - v. There will be initial startup costs for the program for items such as snacks, crafts, training, and supplies. etc.
  - vi. One hurdle is being able to hire for the program as the ratio will be followed is 10:1 (grades 1<sup>st</sup> and older). If the program is opened up to pre-k and Kindergarten then the program will need to have a ratio of 8:1 for the younger children. In addition, the 'lead' teacher and assistants have age requirements.
  - vii. Dave is hoping to have a start date of 10/1.
  - viii. Concerns were brought up regarding the start date being too late as many parents try to secure childcare before the school year starts. There is potential to lose out on families who may have initially been interested in the program.
  - ix. A suggestion was brought up to make the pay a weekly rate instead of daily or monthly.
  - x. More information will follow at the next meeting.
- c. Upcoming Fall Program Offerings:**
- i. Family Day- 9/18, Sunday 1-4: Parks and Rec. would like to have participation from Senior Center and Ashford Library. Family Day will be discussed at the next meeting.
  - ii. Additional Fall Programs will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Motion to Adjourn and carried. Meeting closed at 7:08.**

**Minutes taken by Amanda Holden and submitted by Sherry York 8/15/22**