

**ASHFORD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**TOWN HALL RECREATION OFFICE**  
**TUESDAY, 7/10/23 7:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Director Sherry York was present. Members present were Dave Roston, Amanda Holden, Dan Kehoe, Neil Gordon, and Leslie Bizilj (virtually).

**A. Public to be Heard:** No members of the public were present to be heard.

**B. Minutes from June:** Minutes from the June 2023 meeting were review by the commissions.

- i.** Sherry York pointed out errors in the following sections of the minutes.
  - a.** Amanda Holden made a motion to correct the spelling of “*Steve Galiant*” to “*Steve Galinat*”, correct “*Vinny’s Bike Camp*” to “*Vinny’s Music Camp*”, and to change the sentence “*Leslie Bizilj made to approve the...*” to “*Leslie Bizilj made a motion to approve the...*”. Dan Kehoe seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
  - b.** Neil Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2023 minutes with the approved corrections. Amanda Holden seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

**C. Financial Report F.Y.E. Concerns:**

- i.** The fiscal year ended on 6/30/2023. There are still expenses coming in and an updated expense report will be prepared for the next meeting. Total F.Y.E. income was \$39,963.00

**D. Updates:**

- i. After School:** Dave Roston shared an update from a special meeting today with the Selectman, Board of Education, and Superintendent. This meeting discussed that there is a critical need for After School childcare, especially with only two licensed Day Cares in the town. The After School program will start on 9/1 of this school year. In the August Citizen an add will be posted to advertise how to apply for employment and how to apply to the program.
  - a.** The program will be \$100.00 a week. This program will require payment of one full month in advance. The town will provide a start-up cost for supplies needed.
  - b.** Ashford School will be responsible for staffing and issues that arise at their facility.
  - c.** The town will be responsible for the finances.
- ii. Swimming:** The pool at the Evangelical Christian Center will be permanently closed. The APRC discussed alternate swimming locations within town.
- iii. Pickleball:** The Active Living Grant purchased a new rolling pickleball net. This has been used very frequently since the purchase.
- iv. Parks Maintenance:**

- a. **Signage:** New signage will be posted reminding the community to keep their dogs on a leash while at the park. This includes while in the fields and on trails.
- b. **Gate Keeper:** A new gate keeper has been found to open and close the gate at Ashford Memorial Park and has signed a contract until November.

## 2. Old Business

### A. Program Update:

- i. **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade:** The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade was cancelled due to rain. Supplies that were going to be given to decorate bikes will be saved for next year.
- ii. **Swimming:** The pool at the Evangelical Christian Center will be permanently closed. The APRC discussed alternate swimming locations within town.
- iii. **Bike Camp:** There were a total of 23 kids at Bike Camp in June. 6 kids were turned away due to maximum capacity for the program.
  - a. The cost was \$50.00 for a total income of \$1150.00. Expenses for the program were \$100.00 for a total profit of \$1050.00.
  - b. A total of 8 kids were able to get off training wheels by the end of the week. The condition of the basketball court was discussed as it has seen better days.
  - c. Kids who were already riding without training wheels were able to utilize the Stone Dust Trail, with one young rider completing 26 laps by the end of the week.
  - d. During this week Sherry was approached by a member of the community proposing ideas about creating a pump track at the park. She also received a copy of a proposal from NEMBA (New England Mountain Bike Association) regarding creating a trail in town at the Cadlerock Property.
- iv. **Gymnastic Camp:** 14 kids attended the camp at \$100 per child for a total of \$1400.00 dollars. Expensed included \$930.00 for a total profit of \$470.00. The program occurred in the Ashford School Gymnasium and the instructors were able to leave the equipment set up. On Friday there was a bus trip to Tri-Town Gym.
- v. **Summer Camp:** Currently there are 21 kids registered. This camp will occur next week from 7/17-7/21.
- vi. **Music Camp:** Currently there are 3 kids registered. The program needs a total of 6 to run. This camp will occur from 7/24-7/28.
- vii. **Pint Size Picasso Painting Camp:** Currently there are 7 kids total. There are 2 children who are participating for only one week.

### B. Summer Concert Series: All the dates are booked, and contracts have been signed.

- i. 7/11- Center Line Band
- ii. 7/18- North County Band

- iii. 7/25- Still Kickin' and the Big City Horns
- iv. 8/1- Bruce John and Peggy Ann
- v. 8/8- Flamingo Big Band

**C. Working with Food Vendors and Health Department:** Currently there are food vendors for every concert night. Health Department Permits have been secured for most nights.

- i. 7/11- Lake Chaffee Playground Fund-Mary Griffin, clam, and apple fritters.
- ii. 7/18- Living Proof Church-Pizza and Snow Cones
- iii. 7/25-APRC (Pulled Pork Sandwich, corn on the cob, cole slaw, beverage, and dessert). This event will provide complementarity tickets to volunteers and others as in previous years.
- iv. 8/1- Democrats- Kielbasa, Hotdogs, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Beverage
- v. 8/8- Republicans- Strawberry Shortcake

**D. Camp Out at AMP:**

- i. The Annual Camp Out is scheduled for 8/18 from 5:00 to 12:00 noon on 8/19.

**3. New Business:**

**A. Program Planning for Fall**

- i. Family Day: 9/17
- ii. Halloween Party: 10/28
- iii. Turkey Trot: 11/12
- iv. Christmas Carol: 12/3

**B. Aug. Citizen due 7/19**

**C. Steve Galinat appointment as alternate to APCR**

- i. Steve was officially appointed at the last meeting. Sherry will follow up the Selectman's Office to see if there are any additional steps needed.

**D. Miscellaneous Concerns**

- i. The APCR reintroduced the idea of a Town Barn/Square Dance. Details, dates, and whether this can happen will be discussed at a future meeting.

**4. Closing- adjourn**

- i. Amanda Holden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Neil Gordon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.