



# TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

Recreation Advisory Committee  
Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 5:30pm  
Online Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

**Present:**

Kristin Chandler  
Dalyn Luedtke  
Kyla Grace  
Larry Davignon  
Kristen Gage  
Valerie Schoolcraft  
Haidi Arias, Recreation Director

**Absent:**

Paul Rea  
Larry Satcowitz, Selectboard Liaison

1. Call to order: 5:34 pm
2. Public comment: None
3. Updates by the Recreation Dept:

a. Park Closure: Playground, Tennis and Basketball Courts: Due to COVID-19, the town has closed the park, per the police chief. There was too much activity for the park to be safe for people. Signs/caution tape have been put up, and it's helped. The park will stay closed until we hear otherwise from the governor. No leagues are allowed to play at the disc golf course, but individual people can be there.

b. Easter Activities; Easter Fun Challenge and Easter Bunny Ride around town: Thank you to Kristen Gage, Valerie Schoolcraft and Shannon Freeman for putting the online Easter Fun Challenge together. It was a big success. Families liked it, and the Rec Dept awarded two families with seasons pool passes for completion/winning the challenge. If the pool doesn't open this summer, they can use their passes for the ice rink. Everyone else who completed the challenge received a pool/rink day pass as a prize. The winners have all been contacted. We received great comments from the community and feel like it went really well.

On Easter morning, Haidi loaded up the truck and drove through the region with her wife Hannah Arias costumed as the Easter Bunny (Thank you, Hannah!) -- They traveled to East Randolph, Braintree, Brookfield, Snowsville, and all through Randolph village. The tour took four hours and was met with tons of enthusiasm

from kids and families. The truck was escorted by the police, and Valerie and Tim Schoolcraft drove behind in their private vehicle.

c. Harmony Park (Update only from 3/16 meeting): Haidi met on 3/24/20 with David Palmer. He agreed to place the installation at the committee-recommended location by the fence and is now including two benches and hedges in the plan/proposal. He'll pay for those. He will be presenting the project to the Selectboard in May/June. As of 3/24/20, he'd secured \$22,000 in grants money for the project and will have that funding in hand by July 1. Palmer is intending to have the project installed in September and October 2020. He still has six funding requests from other grants pending. Kristin Chandler asked why, if he's intending to install it Sept/Oct, he doesn't want to present to the Selectboard until May/June? Haidi answered that he doesn't want to present to the Board virtually.

#### 4. Scheduled Items

a. Pool Update – RFP Re-Painting the Pool: RFPs for painting the pool are out now and include sandblasting, repairing, repainting, lanes, depth measurements, etc. It's a major project and will require lots of prep work. Dalyn Luedtke asked how long it will take to complete. Haidi answered 5-10 days (depending on the weather). Then another week to cure. She's hoping the entire project will be completed by mid-June with the pool opening for use in late June or early July. Of course, COVID-19 is the wild card in all of this... May 13th, 2020 is the next Selectboard meeting. They have to approve the contract, then we can move forward. Kristen Gage asked if there is any danger of the Selectboard not approving the funding if the pool can't open this year. Haidi answered hopefully not. The condition of the pool is getting worse and worse. And the money is there -- it's already been approved in the budget for this. It's critical that it happens now, regardless of whether the pool can open this year or not. The ongoing maintenance hasn't been happening for years, so the situation is getting desperate. We'll know May 13th.

b. Summer Programming - Adult Leagues – Tennis and Pickleball - Summer Camps - Pool opening: Haidi has been virtually meeting every week with other rec directors from around the state. As a group, they've been reaching out to the governor's office for guidelines on how to handle summer programming. There are a lot of unknowns with summer camp... Haidi is planning the summer as if it is going to move forward but is conscious that it may not. She interviewed people today for pool and camp staffing and will be interviewing more tomorrow.

She's had some good interviews for pool managers. The Red Cross is not conducting trainings right now, but they're extending the deadline for 90 days for recertification's.

She is still going to move forward with training staff until she hears otherwise. Nothing has gone out about swimming lessons because there is no certainty that they can happen. Camp registration forms will go out in late May if they go out. Chandler asked what the drop dead deadline is for calling it on the camp and the pool? Haidi answered that it all depends on what the governor says. Currently all spring plans are canceled. Likely we'll know about summer plans on May 15th when he makes a big announcement. Chandler mentioned that the June session of GEMS camp has already been canceled. Haidi answered that that makes sense for a one-week camp in June but noted that town camps run weekly from the end of June through August. Valerie Schoolcraft asked what the impact on the department will be if the pool and the camps can't open this year. Haidi answered that there have already been impacts. She will receive no part-time assistant this summer season. Perhaps that position can be filled toward the end of the year, but that depends on summer revenue. There is still funding for Haidi's position, and the rest of the department's budget for this year and next year has already passed. In reality, the summer camp income barely covers the cost of staff. The pool is the issue....

even if it is able to open, there will be caps on the number of people allowed in the pool at one time, and this will have a huge impact on revenue. All Rec Departments around the state are dealing with this uncertainty. We really need answers from the governor by mid-May. In addition to the pool and the camp potentially being closed, there is also statewide concern over Fourth of July celebrations. If Burlington and/or Montpelier cancel their festivities, other towns will follow suit. And even if things do move forward, they will likely need to look significantly different this year. All towns will need to be on the same page for their pool openings AND their Fourth of July celebrations. Haidi has been unable to reach Linda at the Chamber, which is concerning. Larry Davignon said that the annual fireworks fundraiser in May has been canceled.

Tennis/pickleball: These are the two sports that will likely open back up first because of the distance between players. Haidi is anticipating that they will move forward this year and would like to send out registration forms in May for a June 30th start date. She will be ordering a new lockable bin for equipment, and new balls on their way. Angelo Odatto sent \$400 to the Rec Department, which was funding leftover from the Randolph team tennis.

c. Youth Baseball/Softball League: There's been no decision by the VT Principals Association on the spring sports season. The Cal Ripken league thinks they can start on May 15th, but nothing can move forward without the VPA's decision and there won't be a decision until April 30th. Haidi doesn't see baseball happening this year. There's too much sharing of equipment, away games necessitating car sharing, etc. Central VT spring soccer is still holding out hope as well. She doesn't see that happening either, but time will tell. Gage asked how the decision will be made about teams using the Town fields/property for their play? Haidi answered that this will be done town by town. There is a Board that oversees this, but no one wants to be the bad guy that says kids/teams can't use Town properties for recreation. Again, everyone is waiting on guidance from the governor. If it does wind up being impossible for travel teams to happen this year, maybe we could do something in-house in Randolph. An informal inner league... we'll see.

5. Future Agenda Items: Summer plans, Fourth of July

6. Adjournment: 6:28 pm