



TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

Recreation Advisory Committee Monday, November 16, 2020 – Meeting Minutes Virtual Meeting-Zoom

1. Call to order: 5:32 pm

Committee Members Present:

Kristin Chandler
Larry Davignon
Kristen Gage
Kyla Grace
Dalyn Luedtke
Paul Rea
Valerie Schoolcraft

Absent:

None

Town Staff Present:

Haidi Arias; Recreation Director
Larry Satcowitz, Selectboard Liaison

2. Public comment: None

3. Updates by the Recreation Dept: None

4. Scheduled Items:

a. Conservation Commission:

Brendan Barden and Ian Blackmer, of the Randolph Conservation Commission, joined the group to discuss their priorities regarding signage, trails and how the Rec Committee and the RCC may be able to collaborate. Barden reported that the RCC is looking into getting more trail signs placed around town to direct the public to town forest areas, specifically for the Ellis and Sayward areas. They've started this process. VOREC funds will be used to pay for it. There was discussion between Barden, Kristin Chandler, and Kristen Gage about whether the trail signs would be placed on existing street signs (owned by the town) or on free-standing posts overseen by the state. Chandler suggested that Gage work with Barden and the RCC on this. Barden and Gage agreed. Haidi Arias would like to include town trail names on a large sign at the Rec Park. Barden said that Angus McCusker (RASTA) has great maps that could be used for this purpose and there are info

kiosks in the works for Ellis and Sayward with these maps on them. He will have Zac Freeman forward these maps to Arias.

Arias asked about the results from the public survey the RCC conducted. Barden said that people were clear that they would like more signage, maps, and trailhead parking and there was a lot of interest in snowshoeing. Blackmer will forward the survey response numbers to Arias.

Arias asked about who is maintaining the floodplain trail. Barden said that there is a sign with his personal contact info so that people can alert him when there is an issue on the trail, such as a fallen tree. He then brings his chainsaw down (under RASTA's insurance) and takes care of the problem. Chandler said she notifies the town manager when she sees blowdowns and wondered if there could be a system put into place by which the downed wood could be used for heat by low-income families/households. Barden said there's been illegal cutting down there so he's hesitant to invite people to come in and take wood but indicated that there are existing state programs that do this.

Arias said that the town can help with trash (litter is an issue) and is already doing some trail maintenance itself. She'd like to think of some more collaboration ideas and bring them to the RCC. Larry Satcowitz remarked that Jon Kaplan helps with the trail as well.

Chandler wondered about the town's winter liability and asked why the sign says that people may camp on that land. Barden said that camping is allowed for up to three days at a time. It's part of a town policy that affects multiple properties. Satcowitz noted that since no one is actually camping in any of these areas, it's not an issue that needs to be addressed.

Barden and Blackmer reiterated that the RCC is always happy to work together and appreciates the lines of communication with the Rec Dept being open.

b. Winter sports:

Youth Basketball has been suspended as of right now due to COVID-19. The new inner lining on the ice rink is going in, and the rink is scheduled to open as soon as the lining is in place and the weather permits.

c. Winter Lights:

RACDC will be helping with the lighting of the poles. John Grout is happy to donate a tree for the gazebo area. Arias and Paul Rea will be getting it this week & will have it installed by Thanksgiving. The lighting ceremony (with Freeman Grout) will be held on December 5th, and members of the Rec Committee are invited to attend. It's possible that the event will be streamed online so that more people can take part.

d. Holiday Activities:

Arias said that the parade at VTC we'd been considering can't happen as we'd hoped. Should we encourage homes and businesses to decorate and then publicize a driving route? We could offer prizes for the best decorations and the best window displays. Instead of the traditional parade, let's have a mini-parade with Santa, led by the sheriff's department. Dalyn Luedtke said that Tina O'Donnell did something like this for West Brookfield and would be a good person to help with this. Arias suggested that the parade could happen on December 12th and could travel to all of the Randolph area towns. Arias will talk with the fire departments and see if they'd participate. We could decorate our cars and join in. Val Schoolcraft asked what we'd be calling the parade and how we'd promote it. Luedtke wondered the same about the home/business decorating and the driving route. Arias said that social media and email would be the best ways to do this. The group likes Winter Lights Tri-Town Tour for a parade name.

Kyla Grace's husband, who works for the post office, will hand-deliver Santa letters to kids and the senior center and Joslyn House will be writing the letters themselves. This project will run from Nov. 30th through Dec. 19th.

5. Future Agenda Items:

Because of the events, there won't be a scheduled monthly meeting of the committee, but the group will have a special meeting on December 7th to discuss the parade specifically.

6. Adjournment: 6:36 pm