

**Town of Bedford  
Recreation Commission  
March 8, 2017, 7:30PM  
Town Hall, Lower Level Conference Room**

***Members Present:***

Virendar Kaushik, Tom Mulligan. *Delayed:* Ron Richter, Robin Steele.

Selectmen Liaison: Caroline Fedele

Absent: Mike O'Shaughnessey

Quorum: Yes

***Others Present:***

Recreation Director: Amy Hamilton.

Guests: Rachel Mark, Leslie Savoy

***Proceedings:***

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM by Ron Richter, Commission Chairman.

**Motion:** Motion by Tom Mulligan to approve the meeting minutes of December 7, 2016; December 22, 2016; January 17, 2017; and February 6, 2017. Robin Steele seconded the motion. Motion approved 4:0:0.

**Agenda Item A: Springs Brook Park Update**

Amy Hamilton reports that Chelmsford resident Matthew Mulrooney has been hired as Director of Springs Brook Park. Hamilton expresses that Mr. Mulrooney, who is certified to train lifeguards and has experience coaching swim teams and running his own swim group, is highly qualified for the position and states her hope that he will bring new ideas to the program. Robin Steele suggests that the Commission inform residents of the park's new Director with a brief post to social media.

Hamilton informs the Commission that an Assistant Director is still needed and that Mr. Mulrooney has someone to recommend for the position. Supervisors are also needed, but it isn't yet clear how many will need to be hired. Hamilton says that, with a strong Assistant Director, one Supervisor may be enough.

The park's lifeguard shortage continues, with only three who are currently committed and two others who may or may not return this summer. Three applicants were recently interviewed and, if hired, would raise the total number of lifeguards to six. Hamilton says that Mr. Mulrooney will be teaching a Lifeguard Training class over April break and the Recreation Department will promote. The hope is that the Town's offer to pay for half of the \$300 training program and the lack of a \$30 Red Cross fee will attract more applicants.

Because of the lifeguard shortage, swim lessons will not be offered to Summer Adventures this season. If there are enough lifeguards, lessons will be offered to the public. Hamilton, therefore, mentions the possibility of opening the dock to the public.

### **Agenda Item B: Basketball Program Update**

Hamilton reports that there are challenges due to the Town having two basketball leagues (Bauman and Travel). Caroline Fedele notes that some parents sign their children up for Bauman League and then don't participate, leaving the teams overextended; and Tom Mulligan says a factor contributing to the challenges could simply be that children are overcommitted, participating in other sports and activities as well as the two basketball leagues.

Hamilton states that something needs to be done and lists a few ideas for addressing this concern:

- Merging the Travel and Bauman programs.
- Recruiting more volunteers to support the Bauman League
- Hiring individuals to manage the Bauman League.

Ron Richter likes Hamilton's idea to look for other opportunities and suggests that she seek the input of those involved with these programs soon so that there is a plan in place. Fedele also suggests that Hamilton meet with those already committed to the league to ask for their ideas, and Steele suggests that something be sent out to residents explaining the situation and informing them of the possibility that the Bauman League will be discontinued if not enough people offer to help keep the program running. Hamilton notes that she plans to invite current basketball volunteers to the next Recreation Commission meeting to discuss options.

- The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2017.

*Adjournment at 9:00PM governed by Ron Richter, Committee Chairman.*

*Minutes submitted by Veronica Dinis, Recording Secretary.*