PRESENT:
Commission Members present: Mary Alvarado, Bill DeRosa, Michael Helfenbein, Kim Hynes, Smith Mowry, Jane Shernow, and Andrea Weinstein

Staff: John Adamovich, Recreation Director, Theresa Bahner, Pool Director, and Christopher Bahner, Assistant Pool Director, David Cohen, Assistant Recreation Director

Meeting Host: Jon DeMayo, Office Clerk

Recorder: Jim Franco, Office Manager

Public: David Vogel, Board of Selectmen Liaison

1) Meeting called to order 7:30 PM

2) Public Comments: David Vogel said that he was here to take questions regarding the pool. He was thanked for coming.

3) Minutes: Jane Shernow made a motion to approve the minutes from Monday, September 19, 2022. Michael Helfenbein seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

4) Chairman’s Report/Vice Chairman’s report: A) Andrea thanked Pua and Jim for all their work setting up the hybrid meeting. Recreation is ever changing. She explained how Theresa is involved in other activities with the pool closure, such as online programming and Fitness Center coverage. She thanked John’s leadership with programs. She added how she is on the Community and Cultural Center committee which hopes to make the Old Firehouse recreational gathering spaces. Directors will be invited to an upcoming meeting. She thanked Kathy and Jim for spear heading the road race. Andrea suggested that the Diversity Day and the Road Race should be on the same day as the previous year. It made a great day. John had mentioned that we are looking toward a date at the
end of September next year, because of better weather in September than October. John added that the Sweetheart Ice Cream truck made a big success. He added that he would like to see the Fun Run at no charge next year to get attendance back like the old days, between 75 and 100 people. B) Smith mentioned that he ran in the road race for the fourth or fifth time. He would like to see kids’ teams getting involved in the 5k run. He thanked for the fall programming. He was glad to see that the numbers are up, and hopefully the winter numbers will be up, too.

5 Pool – A) Pool repairs – the Board of Selectmen referred the repairs to the Town Building Committee for the Beecher Road School Capital Projects. The filter replacement will be discussed at the next Board of Selectmen’s meeting. If only the filters are replaced, the pool can get 2 to 3 years of usage. Recreation can open for the summer, and WAC could swim. The other projects can be phased in. By replacing the filters, Theresa’s programs, WAC, and the Beecher School programs can resume. The Weston & Sampson report was included in the packet. The next meeting of the Town Building Committee for the BRS Capital projects will be on October 27th at 8:30 am. The Commission suggested that comments should be sent to Recreation and or the Town Building Committee. Bill suggested that while there is a wait for the filters to be replaced, can any of the other work be done? John gave a ballpark figure of 5 to 6 months until the filters would be up and running considering manufacturing and delivery. The pool is 50 years old. Mike feels that Commission support is valuable. He would like to see membership numbers gathered and a formal letter written. David Vogel said it was a good point to get support. He added that a great deal of care was taken for the pool to be 50 years old. Most pools that age are in worse condition. Mike broke it down to two phases 1) filters 2) Bigger repairs totaling nearly $800,000. John said how Brad and Bobby do a fantastic job. Theresa said that there have been newer pools that are in worse condition. Also, she added that there are older pools, like Payne Whitney, that are still being used. The filter replacement would get us started. The filters would need to be ordered ASAP to get us up and running for the spring. This would get programs like WAC, the Beecher Road School Adaptive program, learn to swim program, and the Rec learn to Swim program up and running. John added the pool is a great asset. Kids need to get out of the house. The pool is a year-round activity. The funds need to be appropriated for the filter project. It is not in the budget. It might need to go to referendum or town meeting. Funds might have to be moved around because it can’t wait for the next budget year. The board recommends to proceed with the filters. Michael Helfenbein made a motion that the Recreation Chair and Director co-write a letter of support to getting the pool up and running ASAP and how members use it. Jane Shernow seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Email pool user and the Amity swim team. Explain how the pool is a feeder program for the Amity Swim Team. Bill
explains for Amity to support the pool and that it good for the Town to have a pool. Let Amity, WAC, and Beecher’s Mr. Taddei know. Ask Gerry Shaw for the Commission to get invited to the meeting on Thursday. B) WAC liaison report - Mary added that WAC can’t wait to get back to Beecher. C) WAC Fees – tabled.

6) Personnel: None

7) 2023 Meeting dates 7:30 pm, Town Hall Main Meeting Room January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, No July meeting, August 28, September 18, October 23, and December 4. Bill DeRosa made a motion to approve the 2023 meeting dates with the new starting time of 7:30 pm. Smith Mowry seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

8) Road Race: A big success. Smith mentioned how some people had trouble registering on the day of the event due to poor cell service. John added that he let someone borrow his phone. Jim responded that some races don’t have same day registration anymore. The new race registration website was a success. Kathy will give her report next month. A) Resident Assistance Fund donation tabled until next month.

9) Director’s Report:

A) Fitness Center: Now open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, 4 pm to 9 pm. Theresa the Pool Director will be covering those hours. These hours were cut out of the Recreation budget. John worked hard not to cut children’s programs from the budget, so fitness hours were cut, causing decline in membership numbers.

B) Outdoor Facilities: Ballfields are beautiful. Dugouts have a cement base. A picnic table area is at the Acorn Hill field complex. The Pease Road complex is in excellent condition.

C) Tennis Courts: Pickleball is being played. Jim mentioned how permits end on November 1st. It will be first come, first serve until the nets come down, usually at the first snow of the season. The liner is all set for the ice rink to go on courts 3 & 4. The liner was ordered early this year, so we would have it in time for the season, unlike last year with production and shipping delays.

D) Programs and Sports: Chris and Theresa will resume online programming. John explained how Dave Cohen does an excellent job in finding help with the after school programs.

E) Financial Report: Expenses through September 2022 are $189,105.89 that is 35.6% Expenses through September 2021 were $172,340.17 at 34.7%. The income through September 2022, was $36,975.11 at 15.1%, of that 96.0% of the recreation fees were collected by credit card. Fees collected through September
2021 were $26,181.91 at 14.5%. John added that Jon and Jim do a tremendous job with the budget.

F) Capital Budget: FY24 30’ by 50’ tent for the entire Town to use. Not just for Recreation. It can be used for the Road Race and Summer Concerts. FY 25 & 27 Treadmill replacement. Rob and John Vecchio do a great job in keeping the equipment going, but eventually the machines do need to be replaced. FY 26 Volleyball Court Sand replacement and PVC piping around the edge to prevent the sand from being washed away. FY 27 Fitness Trail station equipment replacement for the Fitzgerald Walking Trails. FY 28 Outdoor basketball court. Pease Rd is the only outdoor basketball court, not located on school property, but it is not a regulation court. This could be located at the Fitzgerald property. FY 29 90 foot baseball diamond. Amity High School has the only 90 foot diamond in town. Jane Shernow made a motion to approve the six year capital budget. Smith Mowry seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

10) Policies and Procedures: - none

11) Correspondence- A) Beecher Road School Pool Usage request by the Physical Education / Health Department for their swimming program, 9 am to 11 am and then 1 pm to 3 pm. Jane Shernow made a motion to approve the Beecher Physical Education / Health Department pool usage request. Bill DeRosa seconded the motion. All voted in favor. B) Letter to Tony Genovese explaining the Pool Director’s jobs with the Rec Dept. during the pool closure. C) Thank you letter to Nick Dottori for his years of service as Camp Director. There is still a chance that Nick will return for another summer. D) Thank you letter to Thom Jacobs for his years of service as Camp Trip Coordinator. E) Thank you letter to Robin Schaffer for her years of donating cookies from Four Flours to the Road Race goodie bags.

Next meeting December 5, 2022 7:30 pm.

12) Adjournment Jane Shernow made a motion to adjourn. Bill DeRosa seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm.