

Recreation Committee Meeting – March 6, 2023

6:30 PM – DES Community Center/Gymnasium

In attendance: Kristine Flythe (Chair), Jennifer Ottolini (Treasurer), John Trottier (Moderator), Jake Ottolini, Jo Hendry, Nora Lamarque, Tom Cusano, Karen Cusano, Emma Holban, Frank Saunders, Lori Rouleau, Vanessa Mello, Brian Rae, Eddie Columbe, Shana Lajoie, Geoffrey Hubbard

A. Volunteer Board

Kristine Flythe and Jennifer Ottolini introduced themselves and how they were to become involved with Dunbarton Recreation.

B. Town Report Additions

Kristine Flythe shared additions to the town report for 2022, and informed the community that the committee and treasurer reports were corrected and now balance at the end of January 2023 in reconciling end of year 2022.

C. Need additional board members to represent the community

Kristine Flythe shared we are still in need of a secretary and additional members to be involved and serve as members.

D. Working groups

Kristine shared that after having initial conversations with Garden Club and community members the town approved budget of \$1,000 from the town and we can work towards having working groups for Halloween, Holiday Lighting, and Treats with Santa event. Emma shared that the lights will need to be replaced after this winter, suggested partnering with PTO, Congregational Church, and bringing on other community partners. Jo Hendry volunteered to lead a working group on community programming such as a bus to Boston, line dancing, and looking to coordinate the newly renovated space in the town hall. Kristine shared ultimately the community center and the space in town is available so why not use it for Dunbarton.

E. Basketball

Kristine opened with quick summary of the start of the season and shared 4 iterations for the 2023-2024 basketball season plans for practices and breakdowns. Jen Ottolini shared the original intent at the start of the season was always to build a stronger program. Moving 7/8 and HS to their respective schools will better them as players with more gym time. In addition, shared that selection for Bow Memorial School teams is based on try outs and is not dependent if you make the Suburban League Travel team. Jake Ottolini shared that sports are important and building stronger players will take time. He is interested in running a skills and drills clinic that would be open to all Dunbarton players on Sundays. However, Jake asked the question does the community want to keep basketball in Dunbarton or let it shift towards BAC.

Motion to keep Basketball in Dunbarton - After various discussion from the community Kristine made a non-binding motion to the community to determine if Basketball would continue in Dunbarton? All those present voted in favor.

Additional discussion was continued on developing the Dunbarton program into a stronger program allowing the focus to be on students attending K-6 in Dunbarton. In addition allowing more opportunity for 1st / 2nd grade to practice twice a week and start scrimmages at the second half of the season. Additional ideas to also focus on just a K-4th grade program and have 5th-6th grade and up move to BAC to slowly start to integrate students within the Bow community. This had some discussion but ultimately the focus is all K-6th at DES.

Motion to focus on at K-6 program in Dunbarton and Grades 7/8 and HS will play at school or for BAC - Kristine made a non-binding motion to the community to continue to run a K-6 program in Dunbarton and grades 7/8 and HS will play with either Bow Memorial/Bow High School or with BAC. All those present voted in favor.

Question was asked if there are Dunbarton students that played BAC this 2022-2023 season will they be allowed to play Dunbarton, or BAC next year? The decision was made that those students ONLY from this season will have that choice and will be “grandfathered” in. However, if they choose to stick with BAC that is where they will play basketball moving forward.

Question was asked when we can make these non-binding votes final.

Chair Kristine Flythe wanted to confirm rules within the committee and run plans/ideas with the town administrator before making any final decisions in addition setting a 2 week deadline for any additional feedback or comment.

Jo Hendry asked to jump back to additional programming how should we move forward and Chair Kristine Flythe wanted to review what was discussed and would be in touch as to be involved with the additional programming.

Chair Flythe also requested if Garden Club could share the expenses over the last year for the Halloween and Holiday events to have a better understanding on what exactly to plan and be prepared for.

Meeting concluded at 7:58pm.

March 8, 2023 – As a follow up to the meeting Chair Flythe sought clarification from the Town Administrator. Quorum is primarily for those who are sworn in board members. Having only 2 board members means there are only 2 voting members of the Recreation Committee. Those public members that attended the meeting above are there as support and members of the community but are not voting board members of the Recreation Committee. The motions made are in fact binding votes as both Chair Flythe and Chair Ottolini voted yes to both motions.