

AUGUST 12, 2008
ANDOVER TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMITTEE

The regular meeting of the Andover Township Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:42 p.m. by Chair Helene Reczka with the following members present: Ed Burgio, Mike Morel, Jodi Halteman, Patti Clark and Brian Robinson. Dick Lagg was absent. Township Committee Liaison, Tom Walsh was in attendance.

OPENING STATEMENT: The Chair noted compliance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 as being met.

MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2008 meeting was made by Jodi Halteman. Patti Clark seconded the motion, all in favor.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Janet Bardello, township resident and applicant for open, alternate #3 membership was in attendance. Janet was introduced to the members. She was invited to join in any discussions that she might find interesting and she was welcomed to the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT & RECEIVED:

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | NJ Herald, Legals | Notice re meeting cancellation |
| 2. | Mayor and Township Committee | Memo and related correspondence re membership resignation of Barbara Niedzinski |
| 3. | Vita Thompson, Township Clerk | Letters and oaths for new membership positions (Jodi, Patti & Brian) |
| 4. | Newton HS Athletic Director | Memo and facility usage form for high school teams requesting use of township fields for fall sports |
| 5. | Chuck Dillard | Email correspondence re request for use of ball fields for fall ball |
| 6. | Donna Seitz, Aerobics Instructor
Past Aerobic Participants | Letters for upcoming fall aerobics |
| 7. | Ed Burgio, Member Coordinator
skating rink improvement project | List of Boy Scouts involved in recent rink project |
| 8. | Township Merchants:
Andover Family Chiropractic,
Lakeland Bank, Perona Farms
Sheridan's, Ultima, Lake Lenape Lodge | Thank you letters for donations to Ms Andover Twp. contest - a letter was sent to all of these merchants |

9. To the Tee Golf Lessons Literature re junior and adult golf lessons

At this time Helen Reczka asked our Township Committee Liaison Tom Walsh if he would like to address the members and he was given the floor. Tom reported on the plans for Fall Ball at Hillside Park and also athletic teams from Newton High School potentially using fields at Hillside Park. He explained that he had been in contact with the Athletic Director at the high school and due to work being done on the fields that the high school's field hockey and soccer teams normally play on those teams are scrambling to find "home fields" for practice and games for the upcoming fall season. A discussion took place among the members and with input from Liaison Walsh. Everyone agreed that we are supportive of the high school teams and if it was at all possible to be of assistance without adversely impacting the youth programs that already use those fields; we certainly would offer them for the high school's use. The bottom line is that dual use by the youth programs and high school programs would over utilize these fields that have just been brought up to excellent condition due to money and attention spent on the fields by the township and made possible through the use of the tax payers' dollars. We have to protect this investment and we would be wrong to allow them to be over used.

Also, the point was made that the Athletic Director was aware of this need way before he has "last minute" began his search for replacement fields. Why has he come to the township less than a month before he actually needs the fields? His poor planning should not cause the township to act recklessly no matter how much we would like to be of assistance. There are 3 other municipalities that send student athletes to the high school. The Athletic Director needs to contact those other towns and ask for assistance. There is a possibility that we could offer the use of the Goodale Rd. practice field when it is not being used by the youth programs. If this can be of assistance to the High School then we can work some actual time schedule and also get a copy of insurance from the Newton Board of Education.

We then discussed the fall ball plans for the baseball field at Hillside Park. There are 2 teams that have players from Andover and also players from other towns. This is the nature of this type of team. These teams have been using the field at Kittatinny HS during the summer while it was available and now that field is not available. Liaison Walsh reviewed the roster of players for the teams and verified that they indeed contained many players from the Newton HS baseball team. Everyone agreed that they should be given permission to use the Hillside Park field. Also, the contact person for these teams, Chuck Dilliard, was given permission to use the electronic scoreboards. He will be getting in touch with the Township Road Department Supervisor to sign the agreement form for using the remotes for the score boards.

At this time the Director mentioned that she had already received request for use of the Goodale Rd. field for the fall season from the Highland Soccer Club. We also have a copy of their insurance on file.

At this time the Director informed the members that the representatives from Boy Scout Crew 85 completed the painting of the skating rink fence at Hillside Park. The project went extremely well and it is a vast improvement. The Director made proclamations of appreciation for each scout to be presented at the next Township Committee meeting on August 25th. We all thanked Ed Burgio for spearheading this project and spending so much time overseeing the project. Ed will be happy to attend the meeting as a representative from the Recreation Committee to pass along our appreciation.

At this time, Mike Morel made a motion to file all correspondence. Ed Burgio seconded the motion. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Report on Summer Program and Sports Camps: We had 80 children registered for the program. This was the first year that we tried our new format by running the program for 2 weeks, Monday-Thursday, 9-11:30 am. The feed back was positive. The Director reported that the parental surveys reflected the approval of the new format. Janet Bardello was able to give input on the subject since she worked the program as our Arts and Crafts Director. We had 36 surveys returned even though every parent was given one to complete. Out of the 36 surveys, we had 2 that contained comments that could be conceived as negative. Member Jodi Halteman commented on how if you have children too young to participate it can cause a dilemma as to whether you just drop your older child off and leave for the 2 1/2 hours or do you stay in the park with your younger child to be close to the one in the program. In prior years the program lasted only 1 hour so it was reasonable for the parents to just stay in the park for the hour. Of course there are some parents who have absolutely no problem drop their children off for whatever the length of time!

We did acknowledge that we need to tighten up our policy on how we release the children to their parents at the end of each morning. We had good intentions on having parents sign out the children before they left the park, but unfortunately it became hit and miss as to making sure the parents actually signed the children out each day. Sometimes parents are in quite a rush to get to the next activity. Chairperson Helen Reczka stated that her neighbor was concerned that we didn't have a more controlled policy. We might need to give one person the responsibility of signing in and out to make sure it is done correctly. We discussed asking for volunteers to help with this. We could put on each registration form a section asking for volunteers to help with whatever we might decide we could use help with. We understand the seriousness of this issue and will definitely work on that before next summer. We also need to figure out how to make our upper parking area safer. The parents are racing in and dropping off and it is quite chaotic and potentially dangerous for the children. We need to work on that also before next summer.

OLD BUSINESS, Cont.:

Next we discussed the recently held multi-sports camp at Hillside Park. The feedback was good. The Director met with the coaches each morning to make sure they had enough water and ice for the children and to make sure the Hillside Park Hall was open for them to seek shelter in case of a sudden thunder and lightning storm. Our next sports program will be the tennis program that is scheduled for late afternoon-evening at the newly renovated courts from 4-5:30 and 5:30-7, August 18th-22nd. The Director stated that she will not be in the area during that week and needed to have some one from the committee stop by to make sure that it was going well with no problems.

Also a concern was for the availability of the tennis courts for this program. We need to put a sign up alerting people that for that week during the designated hours of the camp the courts would be off limits to anyone else. Discussion took place that there are a couple of people actually using the courts to conduct private tennis lessons on a specific basis, not just hit and miss. This is not what the courts are supposed to be used for. They are public courts, not private. If a person is using the courts for tennis instruction they need to vacate the court whenever a resident comes to play. One of the members said they know that is what this coach does. But we do need to get the word to him that he cannot use the courts for personal gain. We are able to set aside a time span for our use due to the fact that we maintain the courts and it is the town's responsibility to keep them in good condition. Mike Morel offered to get a sign made up to post at the courts reading the times that our camp takes place. Jodi Halteman offered to stop by each day to check and make sure that all is going well.

2. Status of Skating Rink Improvements: Ed Burgio reported that the broken boards were replaced by the Road Department prior to the Boy Scouts painting project. Now we need to get the resurfacing project underway. We have a couple of proposals for the resurfacing including a company that does the Newton rink which is considered state of art. They will resurface and strip for hockey and basketball. The plan for installing the basketball hoops is being rethought now. We could have a company handle the whole thing - materials and installation or we could just purchase the materials and have our Road Department install the hoops. We are leaning toward just having the materials supplied and we finish it on our own. It will mean quite a bit of savings if we do the install. Our Road Department Supervisor feels that they can handle this. So that is our next step. We will finalize our bid for the resurfacing and decide who to order the materials for the basketball equipment from. We briefly discussed some type of netting added to the upper part of the fence to help keep the basketballs inside the rink. We will also have to make changes on the signs at the rink to reflect the dual use and define the times that are available for each sport. Hopefully this entire project will be completed this fall.

3. Status of Hillside House: We need to have all the odds and ends taken care off before it is all signed off by township officials. Things like occupancy numbers, air and heating system check and fire extinguishers in place, etc. Mike Morel offered to talk with Darren about what remains to be done so we can get this wrapped up and ready to use.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Upcoming Activities: Next activity is Senior Luncheon on Sunday, September 21st. We poled the members to see who is available to come and work the day. We have a couple of conflicts but we should have a good turn out to help with the set up, serving, clean up and food preparations. We will have girl scout assistance also to help with the serving. We will have another meeting just prior to the luncheon so we can fine tune our plans at that time. Also, we have the annual Teen Dance on Friday, November 14th. All members were urged to try hard to be available for that evening. We always need to have as many chaperones as possible. We will fine tune that at another meeting.

1. Any discussions brought before the Committee by members present – We briefly talked about a Hudson River cruise. It would cost approximately \$70-\$100 per person. We would have a bus reserved to bring everyone there and back. There was additional discussion re the possibility of a cruise to no where that is an overnight cruise on the Hudson. You get on the ship on a Saturday afternoon and return on Sunday afternoon so you get lunch, dinner, and entertainment and breakfast the next morning. It really seemed like an interesting idea. For this type of cruise we would not offer the bus. People would have to make their way there and back and on their own. We will gather more information on these two different cruises and if we decide to go with it we would have to advertise in the fall newsletter of 2008 and then again in the spring newsletter of 2009 and take the cruise in August or September.

We also have our annual NYC bus trip planned for Saturday, December 6th with the children's party the next day on December 7th. We are also planning the adult holiday party for Friday, December 12th.

At this time Mike Morel brought up the topic of trying to connect our scouts with needy seniors living in town. Perhaps the scouts could be of assistance with yard work, snow removal, grocery shopping, general chores, etc. We all thought that if we could be the connection here we would be happy to provide that service. We will spend time working on this with the scouts and we can then spread the word through our newsletter, sign and of course we can make mention of this at the Senior Luncheon. This is a worthwhile program to work on.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Aug. 22nd - Van Ness - party - Fee - \$300.00
2. Sept. 13th - Mullane - party - Fee - \$300.00
3. Sept. 28th - Lutheran Church of our Savior - Anniversary Celebration - Fee - \$350.00

ADJOURNMENT:

At this time, there being no further business to discuss, Ed Burgio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. It was seconded by Mike Morel. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene Reczka, Chair

Jackie Huelbig, Secretary