

Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, November 4, 2024

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: Truro Central School Art Room

Present: Beth Cook, Peter Morris, Drew Locke, Christine McGee, Stephanie Rein, Damion Clements, Adam Leiterman, Julia Morris

Action Items

- **Invite Provincetown Recreation Advisory Committee:** Invite Provincetown Recreation Advisory Committee to a future meeting to discuss collaboration opportunities for youth sports programs.

Key Topics

Youth Sports Collaboration

- **Low Participation:** Concern was raised about low participation in youth sports, particularly in older age groups where teams are divided by gender. Tom Kane, a parent, shared his experience with his son's soccer team, which often had only 5-6 players, leading to fatigue and lopsided scores.
- **Combining Towns:** Tom suggested combining Truro and Provincetown youth sports teams to increase participation and create more competitive games.
- **Previous Attempts:** Damion Clemons, Director of Community Services, explained that efforts have been made to collaborate with Wellfleet and Provincetown, but it's dependent on the other towns' willingness to participate. He mentioned a past attempt to create a joint registration system with Provincetown and Wellfleet, but it was met with resistance.
- **Co-ed Teams:** Damion suggested that co-ed teams might be a solution to address low participation in some age groups.
- **Joint Recreation Meeting:** The committee agreed to invite the Provincetown Recreation Advisory Committee to a future meeting to discuss collaboration opportunities.

Recreation Department Updates

- **Staffing:** Damion reported two vacancies in the Recreation Department: a Deputy Director for Recreation and a full-time program leader for the Out of School Time Program (OSTP). He received five applications for the Deputy Director position and aims to fill both positions in the new year.
- **Activities:** Damion provided an update on ongoing activities, including pickleball, volleyball, yoga, and youth basketball registration. He mentioned that the goal is to have basketball teams practicing in December and games starting in January.
- **Coach Recruitment:** The committee discussed the challenges of recruiting coaches, particularly for basketball. Julia and her mother volunteered to coach if needed, and they are actively seeking additional volunteers. Damion outlined the process for becoming a coach, which includes a background check and optional online training. If anyone is interested in coaching, they need to reach out to Damion directly, and he will follow up.
- **Out-of-School Time Program (OSTP):** Adam, the OSTP Program Supervisor, shared that 59 families are enrolled, representing about 80% of eligible families. The program averages 14-18 kids per day in

the fall. He highlighted the incorporation of homework time and field trips into the program. OSTP will not run during the week of Christmas.

- **OSTP Field Trip Feedback:** Concerns were raised about the limited registration for an upcoming field trip due to transportation constraints. The committee suggested exploring options to accommodate more children, especially when school is not in session.
- **Summer Recreation Recap:** Damion provided a brief overview of the summer recreation program, noting 97 registrations, 73 residents, and 24 nonresidents. He also mentioned the OSTP's pre- and post-season programs.
- **Budget Season:** Damion informed the committee that it's budget season, and the Recreation Department is currently developing budgets for FY26. Damion will provide information to the committee about their fiscal agent role and any potential funding requests.
- **Software Update:** Damion announced that the department is transitioning to a new software called CivicRec, which is expected to be operational by March or before the summer. He encouraged the committee to provide feedback on the new software once it's implemented.

Information Dissemination Procedure

- **Staffing Changes:** The issue of parents not being informed about staffing changes in the OSTP was raised. To ensure transparency and address any concerns, it was suggested that a procedure be established to notify parents about new hires or long-term substitutes. Damion acknowledged the request and agreed to explore options for communicating staffing updates to parents.
- **Recreation Advisory Committee Notifications:** The committee briefly discussed the need for improved communication between the Recreation Department and the Recreation Advisory Committee. However, the specific details were tabled for a future discussion.

Summer Recreation Survey

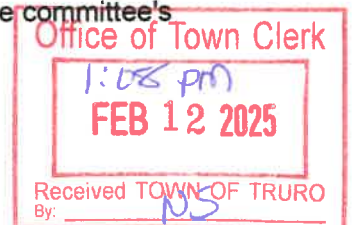
- **Previous Survey:** A previously drafted survey for gathering feedback on summer recreation programs was not believed to have been sent out. The committee suggested reviewing the needs assessment survey conducted in the spring to avoid duplicating efforts and to build upon existing data. Damion was amenable to creating a survey together and sending it out from the department.

Goal Setting and Action Planning

- **Lack of Defined Goals:** The absence of defined goals and action plans for the Recreation Advisory Committee was highlighted. A work session was proposed to develop goals and actionable steps aligned with the committee's charge.
- **Draft Goals Document:** A draft of the goals document was shared with the committee for review before the work session. Setting goals and tracking progress to demonstrate the committee's accomplishments and impact was emphasized.

Decisions Made

- **Reorganization:** The committee reorganized, electing
 - Beth Cook as Chair, nominated by Drew Locke, second by Peter Morris, all in favor
 - Peter Morris as Vice Chair, nominated by Drew Locke, second by Christine McGee, all in favor
 - Drew Lock as Secretary, nominated by Peter Morris, second by Christine McGee, all in favor
- **Work Session:** The committee scheduled a work session for Monday, December 9th, at 3:30 PM to develop goals and action plans; the department does not need to attend.



Next Steps

- **Work Session Preparation:** Committee members will review the draft goals document and come prepared to discuss and refine goals and action plans at the work session.
- **Provincetown Recreation Advisory Committee Invitation:** Beth will invite the Provincetown Recreation Advisory Committee to a future meeting to discuss youth sports collaboration.

Conclusion

- **Collaboration and Communication:** The meeting highlighted the importance of cooperation and communication between the Recreation Department, Recreation Advisory Committee, other town committees, and parents.
- **Addressing Challenges:** The committee acknowledged the challenges faced by the Recreation Department, including staffing shortages, coach recruitment, low participation in some programs, and the need for improved communication procedures.
- **Proactive Approach:** The committee proactively addressed these challenges by scheduling a work session to define goals and initiating collaboration with Provincetown.

