

Long-Term Recovery Committee
December 2, 2020 – Regular Meeting
Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Matt Bordeaux, Greg Barden, Charlie Brown, Marjorie Mlodzinski, Dave Koji, Jack Faski at 4:12 pm.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chuck Maynard, Michelle Noehren.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Selectmen Liaison Rosemary Coyle, Linda Pasternak, and Parks & Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Bordeaux called this Regular Meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

2. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions or deletions were requested.

3. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

No comments received.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the November 18, 2020, minutes were submitted for approval.

Motion by: D. Koji

to approve the minutes of November 18, 2020, as read.

Second by: G. Barden.

Vote: Unanimous to approve by those present.

5. DISCUSSION WITH RECREATION DIRECTOR TIFFANY QUINN

J. Faski arrived a few minutes into this discussion at 4:12 pm.

Chair Bordeaux welcomed Parks & Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn to the meeting to discuss how the pandemic has affected her department programs. T. Quinn explained that the Santa Claus arrival by firetruck has been cancelled to the weather conditions for the weekend. It may be rescheduled but that depends on Santa's schedule, Fire Department personnel and Bacon Academy.

T. Quinn stated she is preparing a survey to see what people are interested in. The outside fall programs for younger children were well attended. Chair Bordeaux said this committee would be willing to help with the survey as the one done by this committee had a very good response and this committee has a strong ability to reach social groups.

Most of the programs have been cancelled as there is no indoor space available to allow for proper social distancing. Many programs were planned but were cancelled due to low registration. This led to the instructors finding other employment. The yoga program is active with only five people allowed in one room at the Senior Center and others on Zoom. T. Quinn stated some programs are on Zoom but feels there is a "zoom fatigue" possibly due to being on computer for school and work. The Town Hall is using the three meeting rooms to store food for the food bank. The schools are closed to all outside groups. D. Koji, J. Faski and C. Brown offered possible sites for T. Quinn to look into.

There are national groups offering programs on the computer and they partnered with Parks & Recreation to facilitate registrations. They offer dance, fitness, coding classes, baking, basketball with NBA instructors, etc. and do not rely only on clients from Colchester.

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2020 DEC -7 PM 2:41
Tiffany Quinn
TAMARA QUINN

Long-Term Recovery Committee
December 2, 2020 – Regular Meeting

The recent Virtual Vendor Fair was a success and vendors were asking to have one in the spring.

A few ideas were discussed to get citizens outdoors and enjoy activities but keep their distance. There is a tree in the gazebo on the Green where ornaments may be made to hang on the tree. J. Faski suggested a winter walk through the arches on the Green. Advertising banners are not allowed on the Green in December as they block the holiday lights. J. Faski owns property near the Green and offered to let signs/banners be placed on that property.

Chair Bordeaux asked about future plans for the Park & Recreation Department. T. Quinn noted that the playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts all need repairs. There is no capital improvement plan or major maintenance account for this department. R. Coyle said that is has been discussed at the Board of Selectmen's meetings. A dedicated space is a on the wish list and a swimming pool, but right now hiking and outdoor activities have seemed to be more important.

T. Quinn left the meeting at this time.

M. Mlodzinski said it was heartwarming for this committee to offer short term and long term help. M. Mlodzinski had suggested asking Director of Senior Services Patti Watts to attend this committee meeting. The Senior Center is sponsoring a program about Coping with Pandemic Stress During the Holidays on Wednesday, December 16. Chair Bordeaux will ask Director Watts to be a guest speaker.

G. Barden brought up the idea that people with needs should have a place to go for answers or suggestions for help – a trouble shooting network or open forum for answers.

Chair Bordeaux said his office has been working with open space grants.

Discussion followed about Restaurant Week that is planned for December 7-14. Some discounts and varied menus are being offered.

6. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Linda Pasternak noted another large empty building that may be checked into for Park & Recreation programs. L. Pasternak also said that they should check with Boy Scout groups in town as they have been active with many projects. Members commented how active the Scouts have been in helping various groups in town.

7. ADJOURN

Motion by: G. Barden
to adjourn.

Second by: J. Faski.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn.

Chair Bordeaux adjourned this meeting at 4:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk