

Recreation Department Meeting

24 February 2024

9:00 AM

Meeting via Zoom

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In Attendance via Zoom: Anne Jobin-Picard, Ruth Casey, Vickie Buswell, Patti Creller, Laura Miraldi, Mike Simanskas, Kathy Simanskas, Carmine Centrella, Mary Brennan-Centrella, Andrea Carbone

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Co-Chair Anne Jobin-Picard.
2. **Additions to Agenda:** It was noted that there would be agenda additions to include a discussion of an Easter egg hunt and to review 2024 activities. Both items will be discussed as Other Business and moved to the first item on the agenda, followed by a discussion of the grant.
3. **Other Business:**
 - *Easter Egg Hunt in Veterans Park* - Vickie Buswell and Patti Creller joined the meeting to discuss the history of the egg hunts hosted by the former elementary school. For approximately \$200 - \$250, they had, in the past, been able to fill 1,000 plastic eggs for an anticipated twenty-five to thirty-five children. The event will be advertised for Isle La Motte residents only for Saturday, March 16 at 10:00 AM with a rain date of Saturday, March 23 at 10:00 AM. A copy of the school poster for the event will be requested, if available, or a new one will be created and posted around town. Donations for new and used plastic eggs will be posted on Front Porch Forum, Facebook, and on the Town's website, and a collection bin will be placed at the Town Office. The Recreation Department will look into donations from Hannaford, Dollar General, and other businesses for candy donations which will be coordinated with Vickie Buswell and Patti Creller to ensure the candy or item fits into the eggs.
 - *2024 Recreation Department Activities Update* - Anne Jobin-Picard has been working on events for the spring including several sessions with the Goodsell Preserve and a presentation from Island Arts. Additionally, Ms. Jobin-Picard has proposed "Fridays in the Park" for the month of July, which will feature drop-in badminton, volleyball, and possibly feature residents sharing their special talents. The hope is to draw residents to picnic in the park and enjoy some activities while there.
4. **AARP Flagship Grant Discussion**
 - *Review Selectboard Response from February 21st Meeting* - Anne Jobin-Picard provided an overview of the grant project proposed, which would include the installation of benches with stretching exercise signage targeted to the aging population that all residents would find benefit utilizing. A discussion of the walking track followed, and it was decided that the project should focus on the park as phase one of the project given the grant cap of \$50,000 and uncertainty of matching funds or in-kind support, with potential for expansion to the former school campus and adjacent land in the future. The Selectboard indicated at their last regular meeting that they are in support of the project, recognizing the tight timeline for completion by year's end. It was suggested to engage with Rouses Point and possibly hold a meeting with their leadership to discuss the project further, as they have a very similar path and their experience with the design and construction would be valuable.
 - *Discuss Application Timing/Review Progress and Feasibility of Completing Grant Application* - In order to compile ideas, volunteers have been asked to add their comments/research for the grant application directly to the Google Sheet created for the project. From that, the narratives will be developed for the application.
 - *Next Steps* - The Selectboard offered to contact AARP's Vermont representative to see if they could provide any support in seeing the application through, so this will be acted on during the upcoming week. The goal will be to wrap up research by the end of the week, so that the narrative can be completed over the weekend, a final review conducted by all, and the application submitted early the week of March 4. The calendar timeline noted on the Google Sheet will be updated to include more specific deadlines by month, including the design work that will need to be completed between the time the application is submitted and the anticipated May award announcement. The next meeting will be held on March 9 at 10:00 AM via Zoom and from the Town Office, then move to the park to discuss the path in more detail.

- 5. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM, motioned by Anne-Jobin Picard, seconded by Carmine Centrella, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted on 28 February 2024 -
Andrea Carbone

Anne Jobin-Picard

Ruth Casey