

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
PARKS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2024**

Members Present: Scott Haskins, Stephanie Giovannucci, Tim Rose, Sheri Sprague, Jennifer Tupeck

There being a quorum meeting was called to order by Chair Haskins at 5:30pm

- **Minutes:**

Rose/Tupeck moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 14, 2023 as amended. **Motion Passed**

Gel Blaster Event:

Michael and Jessica Barney founders of Positive Impact presented a fundraising idea of Gel Blasters to be held in the spring at Surrrette Park. Mr. Barney explained their foundation and that they focus on getting kids outside more, they work with three local paintball parks, but also service all of New England. He added that during Christmas they gave out free Gel Blasters that they received from the company as a donation, and they work with a lot of local businesses to raise funds.

Mrs. Barney explained that her and Mrs. Giovannucci were talking about a possible collaboration with the Parks Commission to raise money and spread awareness of their program in this area.

Board inquired about cost to set up the field, safety, and their experience. Mr. and Mrs. Barney explained that there is no cost to set up the field as they have all the equipment, there would be a brief safety explanation before each game, and that they have a lot of experience with paint ball event, this would be one of their first with Gel Blasters, they added that they have plenty of people to volunteer to help that day with the games.

Everyone agreed that entry fee would be \$10 per person for the day, we'd have raffle prizes, 50/50, and an extra prize drawing for the kids playing. We'd be looking at late spring, possibly May. Mr. and Mrs. Barney stated they will look over their schedule and get back to us with a couple dates, additionally they brought out large blasters that so we can have adult teams as well. Board really like that idea. Mr. Haskins stated that if all goes well, maybe we can do another one during the Fall Festival.

Board agreed first step will be to select a date, advertise at schools and local businesses and online. Parents will need to stay with their kids if 13 years and under. Age 5 and under can play the target games for \$5 for the day. And we'll work on doing a late-night event with the adults as well.

- **Public Input:**

Mike and Kathy Hall owners of Dipsy Doodle stated they are here and would like to be more involved with the Parks as they are across the street from one of them.

- **Open Projects:**

Announcing Booth – Mr. Haskins stated that Cyr Lumber will still be donating the materials up to \$5,000, and we still plan on doing a sign to recognize their donation. We will need volunteers to assist in construction.

Gazebo – Mr. Haskins will bring some pictures for next meeting for the Board to discuss.

- **Funding:**

Cord Wood/Pellets Raffle – Board is still selling tickets, Mr. Rose stated that Kevin Fife has dropped his price to \$300 for the wood.

Spring/Summer Fundraiser: Board agrees the Gel Blasters in the late spring, comedy night in the summer

Fall Beer Fest – Mr. Haskins will see if the Rotary Club is available for the next meeting to start discussing the plans for the festival. He will let Mrs. Giovannucci know before the agenda needs to go out.

Winter – Board agreed to another BINGO night.

- **New Business:**

Ms. Sprague stated that Star Murphy would like to do another craft fair in September. Board agrees.

Mr. Rose stated that they plan on having the encampments at Old Home Day again this year, but have added Red Coats, Native Americans, Civil War along with Wareham Militia, hopefully they will be set up between the Community Center and the Pines Park.

Mr. Haskins stated that he spoke to Jen Weisensee, President of Old Home Day, and informed her that people brining tents would not be able to stake into the ground.

Board reviewed Thank You cards, and approved.

- **Other Business:**

Mrs. Giovannucci informed the Board of Mike Murphy's passing and his fondness of the Northfield (not Tilton) t-shirt, per his wife.

- **Public Input:**

Kevin Waldron asked if we'd be doing a BINGO this winter, Board agreed at this time we are doing a raffle, and will be focusing on the spring event next.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall stated they will continue to follow the Parks Commission and would like to assist any way they can.

Next meeting will be January 25, 2024.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Minutes approved February 8, 2024