**Tuftonboro Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**

**January 16, 2024: Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM by Chair, Eileen Gil

Attendees: Dennis Zilembo, Director, Eileen Gil, Commission Chair, Lloyd Wood, Alternate Member, Bob Murray, Selectman Representative, Mitchell Tufts, Zack Tufts, Sarah Warner, Joyce Lake (via phone); absent member>Jeff Reisner.

A quorum was noted.

Chair Eileen Gil moved the agenda to first have an open discussion on the proposed Central Park project. The next step in the process is the design. Dennis mentioned what has transpired on this subject since the last meeting. A conference call was held between Joyce, Dennis, and Andrew Lester, the builder and designer of the project. The fee for the design is $12,500. A deposit of 50% ($6250.) must be paid to start the process. Dennis reported this to the Selectmen, in which they felt that the money in the revolving fund was donated for the original bike trail project and not for this new design. They felt that a warrant article to this would be the way to go? Following the meeting, Joyce pointed out that the $5000. recently received from the Fiske Family Foundation, plus $1,000 donation from the Lake family was designated for this new project, therefore we should be able to get a check to begin the design. Joyce also noted that the balance of the funding for the design would be to contact the donors and ask if their donation could be now for this new project! Lloyd Wood also commented that the portion of the budget from 2023 would now go into the revolving fund which now could be used for the design. Lloyd Wood made a Motion that” $6250 be removed from the REVOLVING FUND as a deposit on The DESIGN phase of the Central Park project.” Joyce Lake seconded. Discussion followed with BOB Murray giving his reservation about the timing and whether the Warrant Article should be acted upon at Town Meeting first. There were also comments that there have been past projects where the design plan was completed and time passed before any other action was taken. A vote was taken and the tally was 6 in favor and 1 opposed. BOB Murray voted “NAY”. The motion carried and will be forwarded via these minutes to the Board of Selectmen.

Bob Murray passed out a copy of a proposed warrant article to be voted on at the annual Town Meeting for $20,000 for the design and engineering of this new Central Park Project. Discussion followed on what the Commission should do. We discussed as a group what the next step would be. A motion was made by Eileen Gil that it is our INTENT to have a warrant article vetted to “raise and appropriate $20,000for design and engineering” of this facility. We deferred to DRA and Selectmen for legal wording. Seconded by Zach Tufts and a vote was taken and passed 7-0.

Chair Eileen gave the secretary’s report in emailing the minutes of the December 5th and 11th meetings. No further changes to them. Motion made and seconded, passed.

Dennis passed out copies of the 2024 budget for Parks & Recreation. The question on why is the line item for payment to Wolfeboro and youth assistance remain the same as last year? Selectman Bob mentioned that Audrey, our Town Administrator, met with the Wolfeboro Town Manager and their Parks Director and they are working on a possible new payment plan.

A balance of $6,816.30 from the 2023 budget was not spent, therefore it will go to the revolving fund.

**Parks & Recreation Director’s report:** Dennis reported that the “photos with Santa” was a huge success. Thanks to Santa (Steve Copithorne), the Tufts family, Terrie White, for the concessions, cookie decorating, and coloring contest!

Youth Dodgeball ended on January 6th, with awards given to the champs and runnerups;

Mens’ basketball has grown to over 20 players per night at the Central School.

Adult Dodgeball is scheduled to begin on January 25th.

Punt, Pass & Kick finals will be held in Las Vegas ,Neveda on February 3rd. There will be 5 of our youth attending the Nationals. The Selectmen voted to grant $500. Per family for helping with the travel expenses.

Our next Paint Class will be February 12. Thanks to “Doodlin Di”.

Our Summer concerts are all full, with contracts returned from all 8 bands. Letter to potential sponsors will go out in February.

A Commissioners Winter cookout will take place in February, date to be determined. New staff shirts will be given to all Commissioners!

Our Assistant Director ,Ashley Esposito, has accepted the position.

Chair Eileen closed the meeting at 6:30 PM.