

Meeting Minutes

Londonderry Pickleball Task Force

September 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Brian at 7:00pm in the Sunnycrest Meeting Room at Town Hall. In attendance at the start of the meeting were: Brian Samolyk, Christine Adie, Mike Nader, Dan Malloy, Margo Spaziani, Steve Spaziani, Heather Carey, and Kirsten Hildonen.

Sequence of Events:

Reviewed last month's minutes. Christine made a motion to accept the minutes from last month, Dawn seconded, minutes were approved.

Reviewed Sub-Committee Notes/Progress:

Mike Nader spoke with Ilona from Senior Center, who suggested taking the four spots to the left of the front entrance to set up our net for the pickleball demo.

He is adding a beer gift basket to donate to the Senior Craft event in November, on behalf of Pickleball Task Force

Mike spoke to several towns nearby regarding ongoing costs to maintain the courts. Rec Funds take costs for % teaching charges, plus fees for pickleball clubs. He learned that the cost to resurface courts after approximately six years is about \$28,000, but local towns have found they are able to accumulate the necessary funds all from the Rec Fund, without having to ask the tax payers.

Kirsten informed us that these costs in Londonderry would probably have to come from a revolving fund that would be set up for that purpose. One type is fee-funded, other type is tax-payer funded, for all recreation departments, not specifically for one sport.

Steve & Margo: Spoke of the View; our research on the history of pickleball to discuss at the Senior Expo as well. Discussed the plan for the expo, our part is to demonstrate dinking and short shots on the mini court we'll have set up in the parking lot, free for any senior to participate in.

Brian mentioned the pickleball raffle basket; asked for other ideas for second and third place raffle tickets. Water bottle, t-shirt, etc. Heather and Dawn both volunteered to purchase other items.

Steve was invited to speak at Rotary from a response to the forum that is online. Feedback was positive.

Heather asked about posting something at the 55+ communities. Margo will email the flyer to Mike who will email it to his contacts.

We spoke of the logistics of running a pickleball association, getting different recommendations from various people, with allowing or not allowing people to book courts at a specific time. Discussion leaned towards having a membership and getting a rough schedule to allow members-only play, and other times that are open to all players. Low-cost membership to allow members certain benefits of playing, and also monies to the fund.

Brian discussed some of the online presence, we nominated Heather to reach out to Recycled Percussion to find out more information about the pickleball courts they're proposing to build in some southern NH town.

Brian and Dan working on an RFQ for all parts of the pickleball courts. Brian asking for quotes from a variety of places around. *Need to get the itemized proposal for each portion, plus the sub-contractors they would intend to use (with references).

Margo volunteered to find out from Ted Curtain (PB603) to get resources from him as far as which contractors he used.

Dawn made a good point about needing an engineering study before any GC could make a legitimate quote. Kirsten will talk to John Trottier, the town engineer, about how to proceed. Then we discussed and agreed that the RFQ will be worded as such to include the assumption that the land is ready to go.

Dawn reviewed her research on nets and lighting (LED); cheaper to run, longer-lasting. Margo to ask Ted for his vendors list, give to Dawn. We're looking for three quotes for all (360 Sports Scapes out of Windham is one company she has reached out to already).

Brian is going to reach out to Fences Unlimited for a quote.

Brian updated Christine on the new update on the land behind the town hall. A local gentlemen wants to build a pavilion, and roller hockey/skate rink there, and discussion was held regarding why that land was declined initially – we thought it was wetlands, discussion about lack of space for parking. Team agreed to include it in the potential locations. Christine will follow up with Dave Wholley on the logistics.

Heather said there is not a lot to add to Funding/Grants. Her advice is to ask for a set amount from the Covid Relief Funds, and apply for the grant for Land and Water Grant for next year, and they could reimburse the town for part of the funds, if we qualified.

Once we receive the quotes, we can present all the good reasons and benefits to the town for all of the funds, and offer the grant money as a potential to offset the costs. Saying we want it from the Covid Relief Funds.

Kirsten said the Covid Relief funds are controlled by the Town Council so we can talk to the town manager first, then present the plan to the town council who can then vote on it without bringing it to the tax payers. The money is administratively managed, and you go before the town council for approval or disapproval. If that is denied, we can use the same plan and ask for the money from the unassigned fund balance, to be voted on by the tax payers. She recommends working with the Finance Department on that. ARPA funds have to be allocated by the end of this year and spent by the end of next year. Finance Department can confirm, Kirsten will check with them. When something goes before the voters and if it is approved in March, we won't get the money until July 1st. Also a warrant article can be written for some money from funds, some money from taxes.

Kirsten gave us the updated town council schedule: Monday Oct 2nd, Oct 16th, Nov 6th, Nov 20th.

Kirsten reviewed the discussion with Kevin Smith regarding the Woodmont-owned property, it is a non-starter.

Action Items per person:

Heather: get pickleball gear for the expo, and connect with Recycled Percussion.

Christine: Reach out to Dave Wholley to discuss Back of Town Hall location, and be the go-between for the stuff that Dawn is going to get for the expo

Dawn: Continue to follow up on lighting and net pricing. Margo to get the vendors that Ted is using in Hampstead and get the info to Dawn. Dawn will reach out to Tod Ellis who is the leader of the Londonderry Soccer Clubs to initiate a good-working relationship.

Kirsten said the Londonderry Athletic and Field Association contact was Mike O'Donnell, if we decide to move forward on the Behind Town Hall location.

Mike: Continue to reach out to 55+ communities to volunteer Steve and Margo to do a beginner class to utilize their pickleball courts. He will forward the flyer that Margo sends to him out to his contacts.

Brian: Reaching out to fencing contractors, and continue to work on the RFQ to send out to various contractors. He will attend the Senior Expo and bring the basket for the winner of the raffle.

Kirsten will see about road block type things for the outdoor area to "corral" the pickleballs, for the expo.

Steve: Check out 360sport contractor, finalize the design for 10-courts and 6-courts for options to offer to the town. Review RFQ, Prep for Senior Expo

Margo: Finalize the Flyer, email it to Mike, Get info from Ted Curtin for his vendors, give to Dawn, Prepare for Expo and the View

Steve motioned to end the meeting at 8:40pm, Christine Seconded, meeting adjourned.