Minutes

Francestown Recreation Commission

January 8, 2024

Francestown Town Hall, Francestown, NH 03043

Start Time: 6:00pm

Meeting Called to Order - 6:12pm

Present: Bob Bitterli, Pam Berry, and Lily Woodbury. Sam Feinberg arriving late. Absent: Marcy Graham

November 30th minutes reviewed. Bob moved to accept, Lily second, and all agreed unanimously.

Dorene Adams presented the idea of offering weekly line dancing in Francestown possibly Tuesday evenings 7-8:30pm for 6-8 weeks with a fee of $5 per person. Dorene currently offers line dancing in Greenfield on Wednesday evenings. She has her own speakers, a large email list and will advertise. Dorene submitted a copy of her waiver. The board will discuss this and get back to Dorene with a final answer.

**Updates on recently added events:**

\*Yoga classes with Andra Grant had twenty attendees the first week Jan 2 & 4. The system of recording attendance, fees and payment to Andrea is working great!

\*Little Dribblers Basketball scheduled to begin on Jan 9th twice a week on Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30-5:00pm through the month of January has 10 signups with a possibility of an additional five more. Games will be scheduled for Saturdays.

\*Speaker Series fourth Wednesday of the month @ 7pm at the Town Hall

Lisa Federico - Jan 24th on exercise & movement and why we need both.

Mark Ravanelle - February 28th - how to grow fresh vegetables year round.

Cyrena Arnold - March 27th weather related.

A projector & screen are needed for these events. Bob will check with library.

Discussed other ideas for speakers for April & May.

Sam Feinberg arrived @ 6:30pm.

**Discussed previous successful projects that will be scheduled for 2024.**

\*Easter egg hunt at the town hall will take place on Saturday, March 30th the day before Easter. Sam will dress up in bunny costume. Need more eggs than last year. Sam will research purchasing pre-filled eggs.

Fishing Tournament third Sunday in May. Bub Rokes would like additional funds for purchasing fish for this event.

Will discuss Science Fair (Cyrena Arnold will be in touch with the NH Science Fair Board for official judging with winner going in front of the board), July 4th and Halloween at next meeting.

Ellien Laramee-Byers who is interested in becoming a board member joined our meeting. Ellien shared that she & her husband moved to Francestown in October 2020, has four children in FES and another in the preschool program in Greenfield and is the owner of the Frogton Pond Horse Farm. She has had experience with the Girl Scouts, organized community events for the Somerville, MA open Studios and taught sewing classes as a volunteer with Skills USA. Ellien is a freelance & graphic design artist and participated in the Francestown Farmer’s Market & Holiday Market as a vendor.

Bob shared that we are both a planning and a working board that plans events and works at them!

Sam moved to recommend Ellien as a board member. Bob seconded. All agreed unanimously.

**New Projects for 2024**

\*Kids Night Out - Ages 5-11, Friday nights 6-9 beginning third week in February. Kids can come play games, arts & crafts, visit the library to read children’s books, and Bob will facilitate the writing of a book with the children doing the illustrations that will be published so that each child has a copy.

Community Game Nights - First Friday of the month beginning with February 2nd. Families can come play board/card games/jigsaw puzzles or bring their own to share.

Afternoon Community Games - Every Thursday, 2-5pm beginning in February. Community members can come play board/card games, work on jigsaw puzzles or bring their own to share.

Leap Year Chili Cook Off - Thursday, February 29th.

**Survey Update**

Sam has completed the survey form that offers relatively broad questions including a wide variety of recreational activities & events with check marks and a place to add additional ideas. An email is being required of each person filling our the survey. Discussion on distribution included inserting a QR code which Sam will research in doing, Francestown News, social media and the town website.

**Francestown Community Famers Market**

Pam shared that she will be participating in the Maine Farmers Market convention with the previous New Boston Farmer’s Market Manager, Jacki Filiault, on February 6th to hopefully learn fun new ways in running a successful farmer’s market. Pam also mentioned that she will be working on market fliers to have available at local businesses and the Welcome Baskets. And will be ordering new road signs like the Holiday Market ones from Mainline Graphics in Antrim.

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 12th at 6:00pm**

Meeting ended at 8:00pm. Pam moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03. Sam seconded. All agreed unanimously.