

Recreation Meeting: June 9, 2022
Meeting opened at 5:00

Present: Katie Callbeck, Shaun Shattuck, Lynne Archambault, Alan Leao, Lucas Perkins, Steven Temple, Andrew MacLean, Al Caron from PCM

Meeting minutes will be approved in July for June meeting

Lynne made a motion to make Alan the new chairperson. Both Shaun & Lynne vote yes.

Lynne is nominated as Clerk by Alan. Shaun seconds motion. Both Alan and Shaun vote yes.

Steven Temple attended the meeting representing the Fitz. They will be accepting the piano from Joanne. Katie will send Craig her information, so they can speak to her moving forward.

Steven talked a little bit about the Fitz and what it does for our community. There are 4 or 5 leases that use the Fitz regularly. There is a preschool, a dance academy and a community art program just to name a few. The Fitz is used almost every night of the week. Close to 25 different organizations use it to hold meetings and such. They allow Boy/ Girl scouts to have their meetings at the Fitz for free. In 2021 the Fitz was used 258 days out of 365. This year they are running a summer camp which already has 300 kids registered. Last year they got the playground reopened. People are using the playground daily. Recreation wants to work with the Fitz so we can work on things together. One of us will try to attend their meetings in the future.

Their website is <https://www.fitzpatrickcollaborative.org/>

Lucas Perkins:

Lucas talked about the work he did surveying Glow field and the tennis court area. He did a topographic survey for both areas for future developmental plans. Glow needs to be repaired so there aren't draining issues, so we are able to have more teams use it more than they are now. Lucas has worked a lot with Gale associates. He worked with Paula Terasi while doing the work. They found that under the topsoil is clay, which doesn't absorb water. The drainage problems may be geotechnical problems vs. grade problems

Katie will work with Andrew to come up with the next steps.

Lucas thinks replacing the tennis court area should be minimally invasive but that the land next to it may involve a little more work.

Katie read an email from Denene Premus about what the friends of Pepperell recreation are currently working on. Alan is going to contact Derek Tembrock to see if there are funds for maintaining the skate park, and where the funds are if there are any.

Landscaping:

It is unclear of who is responsible for this. Katie will reach out to Denene to see if FOP is taking care of the boulder wall and if they have spoken to Babin.

Lynne thinks that Pepperell should have tennis courts in the future. NM had to get rid of their Boys tennis team because no one around has tennis courts. Glow needs to be fixed first
Alan suggested a town survey to see if the town would want tennis courts

Alan wants Katie and Andrew to start working on a step by step plan for Glow. We need to look at the open space recreation plan. Recreation will come up with a priority list for all work that needs to be done.

We need to write a specification, which will cost money. We can probably find one similar to what we need online for the tennis court. The specification will then go to an engineer. Gale Associates is a very reputable engineer firm, and the town of Pepperell has used them in the past. After that, we will have to put it out to bid.
Lynne wants to know if there are any grants to help recreation. She thinks that more fields and improving our fields will help kids' mental health. Recreation can look for grant opportunities, the town can help write a grant if needed.

Alan brought up how some communities around us have town pools and how that benefits the town in many ways. Many people can't afford a pool, so having a town pool can benefit a lot of people.

We need to come up with a recreation "Top 5" list. We can look at open space for ideas

We will invite Neale Kelly to our next meeting to thank him for the little free library outside of the community center. Everyone on the board loves the idea of the Little free library

Meeting Adjourned: 6:07 pm

Katie will reach out to Lynne for next meeting date. Katie and Alan can't do the week of July 21st.