

# ***Franklin Recreation Meeting September 6, 2016 (draft)***

## **Participants:**

Bridget Thompson, Stephanie Ho, Bridgette Favreau, Brady Giroux, Peter Benevento, Dawn Fournier, Annie Wagner, Hugh Gates, Kim Gates

Bridgette Favreau called meeting to order at 6:35.

Participants introduced themselves.

Bridget provided attendees with presentation given at the Town of Franklin Selectboard meeting on July 6, 2016. She talked about the timeline of events that happened between the Selectboard meeting and this informational meeting. She talked about the background and planning research that was completed as the proposal to form a Franklin Recreation Department was prepared and made. She spoke of the Recreation Board meetings that have been held, and then explained the slides in the presentation.

The meeting was open for comments and questions.

- Peter asked about why the Recreation Department bylaws said board members should be residents. He also said that the Lake is available to use for the Recreation Department. The Lake Carmi Campers Association (LCCA) is willing to work with the Recreation Department.
  - A note was taken to discuss that aspect of the bylaws when they are reviewed after the remaining Recreation Department Board members have been appointed.
- Bridget reminded the attendees that letters of interest for the remaining spots on the Franklin Recreation Board are due by September 9.
- Bridget mentioned that it may be a good idea to belong to the Vermont Parks and Recreation Group because it offers lots of additional opportunities to its members.

- Annie asked about how the Recreation Department will be working with Little League. She's worried that people who could help run Little League will be on this committee and be spread too thin.
  - Bridget responded that Franklin Recreation is proposing to coordinate scheduling, field time, field maintenance.
  
- Bridget said to let her know if anyone is interested in Representing Franklin on the Northwest Little League Board and that she can provide information about submitting their name for the ballot.
  
- Hugh said he was very interested in this new department, as he has been advocating for activity and effort in our community for several years. He's disappointed that our community leaders have been hesitant to support efforts that he has proposed in the past. He encourages Franklin Recreation to be persistent and to reach out to the community. He spoke about several topics:
  - He's had success with developing elderly housing. When Homestead Inc. was being organized, they sought representation from organizations within the community.
  - He's tried to plant a seed with residents of the Homestead (not Carriage House). They have an association and he thinks it would be very good for them to know what the young people are up to and want to do, and he's hoping they'll offer to be mentors.
  - Surveys have been done that show what residents would like, and one of the top items is a community heated swimming pool.
  - Suggested that Franklin Recreation reach out to Berkshire or Montgomery Recreation Departments.
  - Master planning is a big thing that needs to be done. Hire a professional to prepare recreational facility plans.
  - He believes that the intention of the voters when they bought the land behind Dick Wright Ford was to enhance recreational opportunities
  - Franklin Homestead Inc. has signed an intent to purchase land to the South of their location, he wants to convince them that a community heated swimming pool is a wonderful asset to our town. Homestead Residents association leadership told him that the residents were against a pool because it was unaffordable.
  - A community survey is needed. Kim worked with Swanton Highgate Franklin on the Highgate Arena renovations and did a survey and the community expressed a desire for a swimming pool.

- He thinks a daycare facility would be a good community service to add to the list.
  - Boys and girls clubs may be a good resource for the Recreation Department when planning activities for children.
  - He thinks it would nice to have a young person on our committee (highschool student).
  - The Homestead Board has 9 members, involves all three local churches and the LCCA.
  - He thinks that the biggest challenge for moving forward in any new recreational efforts is apathy of community members, meaning that it's easy to not put forth effort, and it may be difficult to overcome.
  - Dog park
  - Pickleball (needs a tennis court)
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- Bridget spoke about how Alburg set up Leddy Park's old ice rink
  
  - Kim suggested a skate park

Bridgette adjourned the meeting at 7:20

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Ho