

TOWN OF NEWTON  
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 21, 2020  
VIA AUDIO CONFERENCE CALL  
7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Newton Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:06 PM on October 21, 2020 by Recreation Commission Secretary, Sherri Kaylani.

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Rachel Bucci, Rufus Coward, Karen Crossley, Danielle Zito, Maureen Duggan-Cuff **Also Present:** Recreation Supervisor, Sherri Kaylani **Absent:** Kelly Rossi and Alan Abramson

Chairwoman Crossley read the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

**MINUTES – September 16, 2020 –**

Upon motion of Mrs. Bucci, seconded by Mrs. Crossley and unanimously carried, the minutes for the September 16, 2020 meeting were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS –**

The Recreation Commission was informed that as of the meeting date, there are no more vacancies. However, we have recently discovered that member, Kelly Rossi may have to resign. Should that happen, there will be one vacancy.

The Recreation Commission was updated on the Flags of Honor event as follows: The event coordination is well underway. We have 20 adopted flags to date. Our goal is to have a minimum of 50 with a max of 100 flag adoptions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event. There will be a dedication ceremony at 11 AM on November 1<sup>st</sup> followed by a boxed lunch to go. Due to Co-Vid 19 we are unable to host a more formal luncheon. The entire event will be held outdoors in front of Town Hall.

Sherri thanked Danielle for the great ideas brought forward for virtual Halloween activities and informed all that the Town has decided to go with the idea of a Town wide Jack-o-Lantern carving contest.

The Recreation Department has reached out to Clara Walters of Prime Time Seniors Organization. Sherri provided the following update: Due to Co-Vid 19 the organization has not held any meetings or events. Clara has stated that many members have either moved, passed away or had to go into assisted living. During that conversation Sherri informed Clara that Karen and Alan are looking to become members. Karen suggested that their meetings be held at night time so that the working seniors can attend and join. Clara felt that would be a great idea. The P.T.S. will not be hosting any meetings or events until further notice to remain safe during the pandemic. Sherri shared that she

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will give Karen and Alan the contact info for Clara. Karen stated that she is willing to help the organization by joining and perhaps working with all to coordinate virtual experiences for them to participate in. Karen also shared that she is willing to go to Liberty Towers and use their "rec" room to maybe go live on the t.v. screen with a meeting for P.T.S. in the future. Sherri also shared with Clara that the Recreation Department is here to help them facilitate such ideas in the future and that we would like to see their organization thrive despite the current times that we are in.

**NEW BUSINESS** –

We welcomed our new Recreation Commission member, Mrs. Maureen Duggan-Cuff. Maureen provided a brief introduction of herself and stated that she has lived in the Town of Newton for over thirty years and is pleased to serve on the Commission. She travels often due to work but is available to assist virtually and when not traveling, in person. She also stated that she has an appointment with Identogo for 12/9/2020.

Sherri shared that we will need assistance at the Flags of Honor event. Members Karen, Rachel, Maureen, Rufus and Danielle stated they will be available to provide assistance that day. It was advised that members arrive for 10 a.m. to aid with things like items for the final set up, program distribution, flow of foot traffic, boxed lunch distribution and, ensuring social distancing and that masks are worn.

The Jack-o-Lantern carving contest is taking place and the Recreation Commission was notified that we will count on them to judge the event entries. The contest ends on 10/28 and Sherri stated that she will share all photo entries with them via the Recreation Commission Facebook group page for their judging to take place on 10/29. There will be three winners picked; 1<sup>st</sup> place- \$75.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> place- \$50.00, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place- \$25.00 (gift card prizes). The gift cards will be purchased from local business establishments which have not yet been determined. Mr. Russo will be contacted for further determination of same.

Sherri shared that volunteers are needed for this year's Halloween events which are being coordinated by Kimberly Williams on 10/31. Maureen stated that she will sign up. All were advised to reach out to Kimberly at her ext. 234 or via her email to sign up.

It was announced that all of our Recreation Commission meetings will remain the third Wednesday of every month in 2021 except for the months of July, August, and December as there are no meetings held those months. We also announced that we

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will be cancelling the December 16, 2020 meeting as there should be no meeting held in the month of December. Sherri will post in the newspaper and on the Town website.

**OPEN FORUM** –

Mrs. Crossley asked if Halloween had any restrictions per the Town due to Co-Vid-19?

Sherri informed her that she would double check with Admin but did not think so. She informed Karen that the Town did put out guidelines as recommended by the CDC for Halloween 2020. These guidelines were posted on Social Media also, posted on the Towns website.

Danielle suggested that we email the schools of our Halloween events and stated that she would share the contact email for that type of information distribution.

There were no members of the public present during the audio conference call.

Mrs. Crossley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Coward. With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM via audio conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sherri Kaylani