

**Town of Madison
Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
2/20/25**

Committee Members Present: Heidi Thomas, Megan Thompson and Cheri Stackpole.

Others present: Heather O'Donnell (Recreation Director), Holly Crocket (MES liaison)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Cheri at 5:45 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: We approved the Rec. committee meeting minutes from 12/12/24

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments

NEW BUSINESS: Cheri introduced John Flannigan to the Rec. Committee. We all welcomed him & we appreciate him joining our committee. We will need him to get sworn in at the Town Hall.

WINTER SPORTS RECAP:

Heather said the Basketball season went really well. Skills & Drills had about 12 kids. The girls team had about 10 girls & the boys team had about 17 boys. The girls had an undefeated season & finished the Carroll County Tournament as the Runner Up. The coaches purchased "undefeated" metals for all the girls players. We are proud of all of the teams for how well they worked together & played so well as a team. Heather thanked the coaches for a great season. The Rec. Dept. bought the coaches sweatshirts as a thank you.

The girls basketball team was invited to the Kennett High School Varsity Basketball game over the school winter break. It was such a great experience for the Rec. girls. They got to warm up with the team & sit with them during the game. Thank you KHS girls basketball team & coaches for a fun & inspiring night.

OPEN GYM: Heather mentioned that parents have been asking for gym time at MES. The basketball coaches are interested in hosting Open Gym on Mon & Thurs. from 5-7pm. We would like to do pickup games, dodgeball, volleyball etc. We will be starting this Thurs. March 6, 5-7pm at MES.

SPRING SPORTS: Heather explained that we will have a Grades 4-6 Softball team, Grades 2-3 Rookies team & a T-Ball team for ages 3-5. Softball, Rookies & T-Ball will begin in April. Heather suggested changing the age of t-ball players to 4-6. The committee discussed it & decided to keep t-ball ages 3-5 and if older 6yos would like to play they can.

Cheri mentioned that Track & Field would be a great addition to our sports programs. Heather said that she has had a few teachers at Madison Elem. interested in helping/coaching. They are still in discussions with everyone to see if it would work. Stay tuned!!

REC. MEETING SCHEDULE: The committee is interested in changing the day of our meetings but we would like to see what's available. The committee agreed that Wednesday would work best, maybe even better than Thursdays. The committee has been struggling with Thursday meetings. Cheri said that it is hard to change meetings once they are scheduled. Cheri suggested not to approve the Rec. meetings schedule yet & we can talk about it again at our next meeting.

SUMMER CAMP PAYMENTS: Mike Brooks, our Town Clerk, has offered to accept summer camp payments. Heather is looking for an email/invoice to go out to parents after they register for summer camp. That would help our Town Clerk accept payments for summer camp. John has suggested a way to link it to our website also. Heather looked into Conway Rec. & what they do to accept their payments. Its called MyRec.com. Cheri & John are going to look into it also. We will discuss this more at our next meeting. Heather mentioned discussing it at the next selectmen meeting.

WEBSITE: We need to have someone take over the Rec. website. John has offered to help it take on & update the website.

SUMMER CAMP: We are looking for summer camp counselors. The committee asked Heather about the age group she is considering to have at camp. Heather said that there is not a definite decision yet but that she is thinking about adding incoming Kindergarteners. Last year the ages were 1-7th grade. Cheri mentioned that the 6 & 7th graders lost interest fast last year. Cheri is suggesting a different plan for the 11-14 yr olds to sign up separately with a separate chaperone for some of the field trips. Megan offered to volunteer her time for those separate trips. We would need a separate bus for that too. Heather said that we still need more counselors for our regular summer camp program. So it may be hard to get another counselor to help with the older kids separately. Heather said that the challenging issues are the bus transportation. Heather suggested adding a bus fee to the field trip cost. Megan said that we discussed it last year & that Heather was concerned about the higher ticket price per field trip. We are trying to keep the cost low for parents. We are waiting to get bus quotes back from Butler & Eldridge Transportation. Megan asked how much we spent on field trips buses. She mentioned that maybe buying a bus would be a great option.

Heather is hoping to do 3 lake days this year, Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays. Swim Lessons would be on Wednesdays. Heather would like to have parents drop off & pick up at the lake to keep bus transportation costs down. She mentioned having field trips on Thursdays instead of Fridays. Cheri asked if the gym floor was going to be replaced. Heather said that it would depend on the March 11 vote. She said it shouldn't take that long for the gym floor project to complete.

Cheri asked about doing the CIT program. Heather said she is focused on adult counselors right now & not the CIT program. She did mention that high school kids have reached out to be jr. counselors. That may be an option. Cheri said it would be nice to have volunteers that could help teach the kids how to fish or take the kids on hikes.

6th Grade Graduation: Cheri said it would be nice to join forces with the PTO to come up with a fun dance or activity for the 6th graders. Megan said that it has been miscommunicated who is in charge of graduation festivities. The committee agreed that it would be fun to get involved in this.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 19, 2025 at 5:30 pm

MEETING ADJOURNED: Heidi made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Megan, motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather O'Donnell
Madison Recreation Director