

Rome Recreation Committee
Minutes
November 16, 2023

Present: Sandy Shute, Chair, Larry DiPietro, Chelsea Sucy, Phyllis Kirouac, Barb McCosh

Treasurer's Report: Through 10/23/2023, we had **\$4,407.26**. Since then, we have spent about \$150 for outdoor speakers, about \$200 on Halloween haunted trail, and perhaps have had some income from t-shirt sales.

Old Business:

1. **Halloween Trunk-or-Treat and Haunted Trail** - We had over 100 children attend. Notes for next year:
 - a. **Make sign to direct people to the trail**
 - b. **Lighting to get to the trail**
 - c. **Initial separate flier/announcement to solicit "trunkers"**
 - d. **Have treats on the trail**
2. **Yoga** – program began at the Community Center on October 21, and will continue to be held on Saturdays, at 10:00am, with the exception on November 4. Please join us!
3. **Taekwondo** – there appears to be not enough interest at this time to hold any classes
4. **Movie night** was a success! Next time we show a movie outdoors, we will set up the projector and computer inside the pavilion, and reverse the image onto the screen (sheet) so that we can still use the lawn for seating, but electronics will be out of any weather and will not block anyone's view
5. **Allison Property (700 acres+ around Little North Pond)** – Sandy met with 7Lakes Alliance to share ideas on the use of the property. They mentioned some board walks through some of the significant wetlands. Sandy talked about a trail for snowshoeing trail as a winter activity, with the possibility of having Shawn Landry and Mainely Trails help with Trail development. Any projects being considered need to be cleared with the offspring of Mr. Allison as guardians of the Trust which owns the property. Sandy agreed with 7Lakes that we should work together moving forward with any proposed development. Mr. Allison has offered to give a tour of the property in his side-by-side. Noah, from 7Lakes would like to ride along as well as perhaps Shawn Landry.
6. **Breakaway Bases and Doggie waste bags and receptacle** – **Larry** will talk to the Selectboard have Abby look into a grant for breakaway bases for the ball field (\$200 - \$500). **Chelsea** will make a laminated sign to remind dog owners to pick up any dog waste when using the ball field.
7. **Bird deterrent ribbon in the pavilion** – this seems to be working
8. The **walking track** has been completed
9. **Hoyt Island encroachment** – Larry DiPietro has visited the property and feels it is not a problem. Should we ask Selectboard to consider writing a letter informing them that their continued use does not constitute adverse possession and that they are using the property with the Town's permission?
10. **Equipment bin** – the basketballs have been replaced. A couple of lacrosse sticks and balls have been added. **Sandy** will look into **snow shoes** for use on the walking track. If Paul is planning to set up the ice rink, we will look into **hockey sticks and goals**.
11. **Comprehensive Plan Implementation** – see #5.

New Business:

1. Walking Track

- a. Two of the crew who worked on the walking track have agreed to rent a chipper to chip up all the brush that was removed to create the walking track.
- b. This same two men as in #1. above can also excavate, add gravel, and then add the road topping left over from the walking track to make a pad for two accessible raised garden beds along the walking track (beyond the left field fence and beyond the fire house septic field).

2. Activities for the remainder of this year

- a. Public dinner – not a good time to do between now and the end of the year or in winter months. Perhaps schedule for May.
- b. Movie night over the Holiday Break – no volunteers to organize
- c. Giving Tree – We generally are only involved with the delivery of any gifts to non-church-referred families (church delivers them). **Larry** can do this, will coordinate with Town Office for a night to do this and can contact **Carroll Bubar** to ride along as he would like to be involved. Get a picture of folks with gifts before delivery. **Dick Greenan** has done this in the past.

3. Activities to start of 2024

- a. **Kareoke Night** – **Bob Hudson** has agreed to MC this. Sandy or Julie can show him how to run the computer and projector. Advertise with sandwich boards and website/Facebook. Julie can help if given time
- b. **Snowman contest/bonfire** – Mainely Trails (Shawn Landry) has offered to donate cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners. We will plan for **Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 12:00 noon**. **Larry** will pick a location for the bonfire. **Phyllis** will purchase hotdogs, cider, hot chocolate, coffee, hot cups, stirrers. We have plenty of popcorn. Will need help to prepare. **Larissa?** We can advertise with sandwich boards – who can do this? **Chelsea? Larissa?**
4. **Committee nominations for next year** – **Larry** will check with Selectboard on best way to take nominations for people at Annual Meeting in March for the committee next year. So far, we have: Larry, Chelsea, Sandy, and Barb. **Sandy** will check with Larissa.
5. **Thank you to office staff** – **Phyllis, Tuesday, December 19, 2023**
6. **Budget for 2024** – Requesting \$2500 to cover additional barbecues, public dinner, repainting of basketball and pickle ball court and lines, Halloween supplies, small balance bicycle(s), tricycle(s) (will also ask for donations) for use on walking track, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm. No date set for next meeting. Will communicate for winter events via email.