Rosendale Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Present: Commissioners Kristina Carr, Lisa Jerkowski, Claudia Joseph, Reta Sorge; Recreation Clerk Dorene Whitaker; Town Board Liaison Ashley Sweeney. Excused: Commissioners Dave Hattenbrun, Frank Klepeis, Kieran Liggan-Casey.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

1.**Old meeting minutes**: R. Sorge moved to approve the minutes from the April 2023 meeting. Seconded by L. Jerkowski. All in favor.

2. **Trees for Tribs**: K. Carr reported that the riparian buffer planted in 2017 along the streambank behind the tennis courts was recently tended. Many invasive vines were removed and the area will require some continuing maintenance to remain healthy.

3.**Solar credits**: A. Sweeney reported that research into the electric bill to ascertain if we are indeed getting credit for our solar array energy production on our Central Hudson bill has been taken over by the Town Clerk.

4.**Application for Use**: This has been tabled temporarily until our clerk gets the summer programs established.

5. **Fitness Court classes**: K. Carr reported that 2 sessions of instruction on the new Fitness Court were held over the past week. Turnout was good and the participants enjoyed the classes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1.**Playground**: Matt McCloskey, Youth Director, presented plans for the playground replacement. The plan is to keep several pieces of equipment (the parallel bars, the see-saw and the mountain climber) and purchase 6 more, including a large playground piece, various new swings, and several smaller free-standing items. This should accommodate a range of activities for children up to age 12. Pending is a new diagram to confirm that the existing footprint is adequate; otherwise there may be a small extension toward the Pumba sculpture. Various ground covers were researched, and wood chips were chosen due to affordability. Autumn 2023 installation is anticipated. The Rec Commission was pleased with the proposal.

2.**Tree planting**: Adam Watson and Andrew Knicely of Canopy Tree Service returned to further discuss plans for planting a Norway Spruce on the grounds of the Rec Center. Mature height is 40-60 feet and spread is 25-30 feet. Their hope is for this to become the Town's holiday tree with a tree-lighting community event to be held every December. There was a long discussion about placement, with a new suggestion for the tree to be planted in the grassy area along the road to the basketball court. Electric service would eventually be required; this could be run from the nearby pump house. K. Carr moved that the tree be planted in this area, as long as the following criteria are met: 1)Adam and Andrew concur that the site is conducive to tree growth,

2)Supervisor Walsh has no objections, 3) Bob Gallagher of the Highway Department and Terry Johnson of the Water Department confirm that there are no lines that would interfere, and 4) Canopy gets clearance from 811. Seconded by R. Sorge. All in favor.

3.**Marquee**: A. Sweeney reported that RFPs for the new marquee have gone out, deadline June 9.

4. **Eagle scout project at Concession Stand**: D. Whitaker reported that Josh McGann painted the concession stand as his Eagle Scout project. K. Carr will send a letter of appreciation.

5.**Pool 2023 Update**: D. Whitaker reported that the pool was painted today, and the floor in the concession stand, damaged by storage of the Fitness Court last year, is being replaced tomorrow. All cashiers have been hired and trained. However, we have a significant lifeguard shortage: 8 have applied and we need a minimum of 15 to operate safely (goal is to hire 20 lifeguards). The pool cannot open until there is adequate staffing. Advertising, social media and word-of-mouth solicitation continues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be June 21.

Respectfully submitted, Kristina Carr, Chair