

## Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes - Monday, April 14, 2025

In Attendance: Apryl Blood, Scott Blasingame, Ericka Carr, Tim Blagden, Alfred Hanson (selectboard rep).

Missing: N/A

Meeting minutes approved from 10/14/24.

### Parks & Rec Board member participation

Alfred asked how many board members were typically participating in Parks & Rec. The board is currently 4 and has been at about that level for some years. He said he had seen times where participation had been up and down, and suggested contacting (we can redact if you like) Denny O'Connell who had successfully recruited members years ago. Apryl said she has pleaded for members in the Library Newsletter, on the Parks & Rec website and on the Parks & Rec Facebook page. She said Simonds School used to have an annual event that was a good opportunity for recruiting. Tim said the school is planning a Health and Safety Fair for June 16.

Possible members might be recruited from WYSA, Pickleball players, interested skaters, softball league, baseball league. In case people don't know, Warner Parks & Rec maintains the facilities at Bagley Field, Riverside Park and Silver Lake. The actual sports that take place at these facilities are run by other organizations.

Youth soccer – Warner Youth Sports Association <https://warnersports.org/home>

Youth soccer – Merrimack Valley Soccer League <http://www.mvsl.org/>

Youth Spring Baseball – Kearsarge Valley Cal Ripken League <https://www.kvcrl.com/home>

Youth Football - <https://www.kearsargewildcats.com/>

Local Sports within the community:

Adult Co-Ed Softball - <https://www.warnerparksandrec.com/p/coed-rec-softball-league.html>

Pickleball – Schedule on Team Reach: WarnerNHPB

### Ice Rink and related budget line items

After many years of volunteer service to the town Griffin Manning retired in the fall of 2024 as a Parks & Rec Volunteer managing the upkeep, setup, ice maintenance and spring take down of the rink components. Apryl Blood came up with a budget for labor (\$2,500) and supplies (\$1,600) that were included in her presentation to the budget committee in the late fall. Attempts were made to recruit additional volunteers, but no one stepped up. In the meantime, the rink was not set up for the 2024-25 season. Apryl received many complaints/inquiries about the rink during the winter. While the board planned to get a new liner and move forward with part time paid help to manage the rink for the 2025-26 season. Apryl was working with Public Works to come up with a rink that would need less setup and maintenance moving forward. **However, the budget committee removed the two line items from the budget.** Alfred explained the budget committee looked back at the three previous winters which were too warm for consistent ice to form along with the increase in labor cost to run the rink and said those factors contributed to the decision to reduce the budget.

Discussion also took place on moving the rink to Riverside Park, either on the basketball court (unfeasible as it is surfaced at a cost) or another location. Alfred suggested the fire department could help flood the rinks in the fall if Parks & Rec can find a way to continue providing a rink. Talk continued about the merits of using Silver Lake for skating. Concerns over the liability to the town of using that location were raised. The lake is spring fed and has flow through parts of it. The subject was tabled for more discussion at the next meeting.

### Treasurer Update

Revolving Account Balance is \$9586.33 (4/14/25) Expenses about to hit the account include:  
\$22.17 for annual domain name renewal  
~400.00 for Pickleball Net  
~349.00 for windscreens for two ball fields and for pickleball court.  
Additional expenses for softballs and two strike mats were mentioned.

### Budget

The Parks & Rec Budget presented to the budget committee, and approved during that meeting was \$41,408. As mentioned above in the rink discussion, the budget was reduced at a later date by the budget committee. Apryl was presented a revised budget of \$37,309 for the year (Start date – End date)

There was discussion on how the seasonal labor and mileage are coded correctly when submitted to finance but don't end up being accounted for the same way. This causes problems for Apryl when she has to justify line items to the budget committee on an annual basis.

Alfred asked if Parks & Rec carries insurance. It does through the town's policy with Primex. The specific amount of the insurance premium related to Parks & Rec was not available at the meeting and it has never appeared as a line item in the Parks & Rec budget.

### Bagley Field Topics

Snack Shack Maintenance: The building needs to be washed, have minor repairs to exterior, and painted/stained. A contractor was selected in the fall and \$4,657.03 was allocated from the Capital Reserve Funds. However, schedules and weather did not align to get this done before winter. Apryl is reaching out to the contractor to see if they can get this work done now.

Ice Rink/volleyball court: The boards of the ice rink have deteriorated, and the rink now needs to be de-constructed. At least one of the light posts has also fallen. The space can be setup for volleyball as it has been in the past.

Soccer Fields: No discussion.

Adopt-A-Highway: Twice a year Warner Parks & Rec volunteers take about 90 minutes to pick up trash along Rt 103 from Bagley Field to I-89 Exit 7. Gloves, bags and vests (if desired) are provided. You can help keep Warner looking beautiful. The spring cleanup is May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. We meet at the Bagley Field Parking lot. Half the crew works Bagley to Annis Loop. The other half work Annis Loop to Exit 7. Contact Apryl Blood to volunteer.

### Riverside Park Topics

The park gate was opened for the season on April 7, 2025.

Skateboard Park: Parks & Rec has reached out to the Kearsarge Regional High School Art teacher to have students paint the sides of the skateboard park features. It is hoped this can be done annually with a feature or two painted each year to keep them looking good. Paint has been ordered and the project is expected to be done spring of 2025.

Tennis/Pickleball Court: Currently the court has white paint showing the tennis lines and blue paint for pickleball lines. One side of the tennis court contains two pickleball courts while the other side just has a single court striped. Pickleball is quite popular and the players have asked if a fourth court can be striped. VT Recreational quoted \$1,200 to restripe the court. This is the same firm that resurfaced and painted the basketball court and tennis court a few years ago. A motion was made (Tim), seconded (Scott) and approved to expend \$1,200 from the revolving account to pay for striping the fourth pickleball court.

While VT Recreational is on site they will advise us about when we should expect to have to repaint the other surfaces so we can plan for future years.

Wind/dust screens will be added to the fence around the tennis court.

Baseball Fields: Dugouts will be painted by volunteers at a time to be coordinated by Apryl and the volunteers. It is anticipated KRHS students will do this for community service hours. Signs will be added to the dugout and field fences encouraging safe lungs to try to cut back on smoking around games and patrons. Screens will be added to the fences behind home plate on the softball and baseball fields. Park Cleanup of the fields is done by Warner Public Works. Volunteers clean up the perimeters and that will take place in May at a date to be determined.

There was discussion about building a practice wall for pitchers if there was a remaining balance in the Capital Reserve Fund after the Bagley Snack Shack Project.

Opening Day for Co-Ed Softball is anticipated for April 27<sup>th</sup>. Teams pay \$200/team for a 6 week season. Warner Parks & Rec supplies them with Softballs and two strike mats per season. It was asked what other towns were charging and after discussion a suggestion was made to raise the team rate for 2026 to \$235.

Opening Day for Youth Sports is May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The 5K Color Run hosted by WYSA is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> with registration at 9:00 and the race at 10:00. This is also Spring Into Warner.

Riverside Septic Tank: Was pumped fall 2024, and it was determined by the public works department we do not need a riser.

#### Silver Lake Topics:

The aerator will be checked. If needed more muck pellets will be dispersed. People noticed the water was much clearer last season. Also a low string was placed along the water's edge and this worked well to discourage geese from walking onto the beach.

Spring cleanup should include raking and dragging the beach. Also pickup of sticks & debris.

We will add other HS community service opportunities throughout the season as they arise.

Parks & Rec Meetings take place in Warner Town Hall at 7:00 PM. They are scheduled for following dates:

5/12 (Scott taking the minutes)

9/8 (Erika taking the minutes)

10/13 (Apryl taking the minutes)

Next Meeting – \*\*\*\* May 12, 2025 @7pm location Town Hall\*\*\*\*