

# HAMPDEN RECREATION COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

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**Date:** February 1, 2024— Skehan Recreation Center

**Time:** 5:30 PM

**Committee Members:** Jane Jarvi (2024), Stephanie Shayne (2024), Nancy Fenders (2025), Allene "Uiko" Frey (2025), Steve Brown (2026), James Dyer (2026), Frank Pergolizzi (2026), Jason Sharpe (2026), Rubyann Wade (2026).

**Town Officials:** Bryann Lentz, Director of Recreation; Jill McLaughlin, Assistant Director of Recreation

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1. Call to Order, 5:35.
2. Approval of Agenda: motion to approve, seconded, approved.
3. Public Comments: none
4. Approval of 9/18/2023 minutes: motion to approve, seconded, approved.
5. Directors Update/Report
  - a. Budget Overview FY 24-25. Budget is in preparation. Focus will be on technology to streamline payments
  - b. Goals and Objectives Meeting: February 17, 2024. Every department head meets with the Town Council in a one-day workshop. Bry's presentation will focus on the successes of the past year, upgrading facilities, and needs and opportunities for the next fiscal year. Working with Public Works to request a part-time parks maintenance position.
  - c. Winter programming/upcoming events. The Staff continues to provide successful traditional programs while introducing new programs, i.e., community band. Summer scheduling is already beginning and may include a monthly concert in the park, old fashioned community BBQ, etc. The community building events have proven successful the past couple of years.
  - d. Jill and Bry are event planning coordinators for the MRPA Conference this spring, 2024 conference.
6. Unfinished Business:
  - a. Progress on the Community Center will be discussed under new business.
  - b. Late spring Advantage Tennis due to complete a pre-inspection for new pickleball courts and basketball courts resurface. Work will be completed in June or July.
7. New Business:
  - a. Land scheduled to be cleared by the end of March 2024 at the Western Avenue fields for further field development, including softball fields. This will allow the Town to repurpose the land where the current softball fields are located on Ballpark Road.
  - b. Amy Ryder, Town Development Officer, presented the blueprints and the location of the community center at the Western Avenue Park. She discussed the incremental process including tree removal for field development this spring, field development, moving structures, volleyball court and plants in the current Western Avenue community park to a new location, finalizing plans and hiring a professional fundraiser. Current building cost is \$250/sq ft. She charged the Rec Committee to identify potential funders. The time-line is 3-5 years.
8. Committee Comments: Thank you to Bry, Jill and Amy
9. Next Meeting: TBD
10. Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Jane Jarvi