

CITY OF VERGENNES, VERMONT
REGULAR MEETING of the VERGENNES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

May 12, 2021

6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Join by Computer: <https://zoom.us/j/87315461473>

Join by Phone: Dial: 1 (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 873 1546 1473

Meeting Password: 1234

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 6:00pm | 1. Welcome |
| 6:03pm | 2. Amendments to Agenda |
| 6:05pm | 3. Approve Minutes to Regular Meeting on 4/14/21, see attachment |
| 6:10pm | 4. Hear Visitors |
| 6:15pm | 5. Walk/Bike Council of Addison County, Amy Yuen and Tim Clark |
| 6:25pm | 6. Updates from Workgroups |
| | A. Pavilion |
| | • Build, see attachment |
| | • Fundraising, see attachment |
| | B. Pool, see attachments |
| | C. Parks |
| | D. Trails, see attachment |
| | E. Programming, see attachment |
| 7:00pm | 7. Financial/Budget |
| 7:30pm | 8. Adjournment |

CITY OF VERGENNES, VERMONT
REGULAR MEETING of the VERGENNES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

April 14, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Join by Computer: <https://zoom.us/j/87315461473>

Join by Phone: Dial: 1 (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 873 1546 1473

Meeting Password: 1234

present: Kathy Rossier, Ben Hatch, Julian Cesner, Lynne Rapoport, Tim Cook, Lisa Casey, Michelle Eckels, Kim Buckley, Jeremy Holm, Matt Hawes, Jill Murray-Killon
guests: Erin Wolcott, Mike Daniels, Elise Shanbacker, Mel Hawley, Ron Redmond

6:00pm 1. Welcome

6:05pm 2. Amendments to Agenda - None

6:10pm 3. Approve Minutes to Regular Meeting on 3/10/21, see attachment

Jeremy Holm makes a motion to approve March minutes, Jill Murray-Killon seconds. Kathy Rossier #3 change to watershed discussion, should say 'up to 75% of anything beyond the \$350 can be allotted to recreation; need to keep 25% of the earnings untouched'. Ben Hatch asked for clarification on 'how does this work'? The committee needs to know the maximum usable amount is to set goals, determine allowable funds for use, set appropriate timelines for implementation and sustainability. Mel Hawley confirmed that currently the account has roughly \$429,000 which does not reflect recent allocations of bills unpaid (example: trail assessments/reports). Intent of the fund is to use only 75% of the earnings/growth (some confusion between earnings vs growth in value). Jeremy Holm makes a motion to support Kathy Rossier's amendment to the March Minutes, Matt Hawes seconds. All approve.

6:15pm 4. Hear Visitors - New member interest

- Erin Wolcott – currently an economist, 1 year resident to Vergennes, enjoying the trails, parks, programming, and interested in sharing her energy and passions to the Recreation Department. Previously instructor of yoga, down-hill, and cross-country skiing.
- Mike Daniels – Lifelong resident of Vergennes that comes with the knowledge around the history of Vergennes, events, fundraising, and past practices. Passionate about the basin/falls area.

Tim Cook clarified that currently the Basin work falls under the Basin Taskforce and not the Recreation committee; and the lighting of the falls has been a contention within the group.

Kathy Rossier will follow up with David Austin/the Basin Taskforce to see if there is room for recreation to take this park area under Recreation Department.

Committee Charge states 8-12 Vergennes residents are allowed on the committee; those interested would submit a letter of interest to the committee chair which would make a recommendation to the council designee; council designee would then bring to council for vote. Robyn Newton wondering about interested residents coming forward when committee is full. They are encouraged to attend meetings and become active on a workgroup as a community member. Letter of interest can be submitted at any time, with committee chair keeping track of submissions and order.

Letters from Erin Wolcott and Mike Daniels will be forwarded to Jill Murray-Killon to bring to council for discussion/approval.

A member since 2018, Tim Cook will be stepping away from the Recreation Committee within the next couple months, which will leave a vacant opening. Serving as the committee chair for over 2 years and dedicating countless hours to recreation in Vergennes we are so thankful. We will miss having you at our monthly meetings.

6:20pm 5. Updates

A. **Rink:** Snowblower donation from Aubuchon Hardware, shed request, no attachment Robyn Newton would like to propose the idea to enclose the back of the warming hut into a storage shed with padlock for storage of the rink snowblower and bambini. This would allow for anyone to come and prep the ice as needed without the hassle of coordination of schedules. Public Works can do the build for \$500, with an additional \$300 for relocation of the tank. Jeremy Holm makes a motion to approve the \$800 towards this project, Tim Cook seconds. Jeremy Holm amends the \$800 to up to \$1,000 for the 'rink annex'. All approve.

B. **Pool**, see attachments

- updates
- opening & closing procedures

Overall, the pool is in good shape. Minor calking and tapping out of hot spots are needed before refilling. Over the winter there was a leak in the pump house and flooding which has destroyed the pump. Waiting on estimate of new/repair pump.

Robyn Newton asked if there have been any decisions on schedules and fees and wondering if community use by established groups will be prioritized before opening for open swim slots. Lisa Casey and Michelle Eckels have worked hard on the schedule and looks like it is inclusive of all groups. Robyn Newton asked for pool manager updates and expressed the need to fill the position with a qualified individual due to the responsibilities of the job, as well as being able to offer a quality program. Jill Murray-Killon echoed this need and concern. Kim Buckley shared that the job description has been 'cleaned up' to be 'less scary'. She shared that other VT programs are finding it challenging to find Red Cross Certified WSI training these days and certified instructors are hard to find. Kim Buckley shared that from her understanding the swim program could run as a non-certified Red Cross program and look at creative alternatives to the WSI training. Robyn Newton feels that parents may want a

Red Cross program, or at least to be aware of this change in the program to the public before anyone signs up. Another question of 'Who will be running the instruction program?' Jill Murray-Killon also asked for clarification on WSI instructor training and bringing an instructor to us vs sending participants out of state. Kim Buckley clarified that currently it is challenging to find an instructor for the WSI training. Due to limited contact during the pandemic, most training has lapsed, and trainers waiting to be recertified to offer the training we need. Michelle Eckels added that the training is costly for individuals to take as a personal investment (financially and time) without an incentive.

Jeremy Holm asked about cost of the training. Michelle Eckels offered that the training costs and other details are not on the Red Cross site yet but estimates over \$600/person. She added that with the proper oversight and vested instructor training (without Red Cross) it could be a great program. Offered now is a BSI (basic) training that includes all levels up to swim team technique perfection. No other details on the website currently due to pandemic restrictions of in-person instruction. Jeremy Holm offered the thought around incentivizing the position and pay for the training in trade for commitment for X number of seasons. Robyn Newton offer the thought of Pool Manager and Pool Instructor could be different person. Instructor needs to be appropriately trained and training others. Jill Murray-Killon asked about closer location for possible resources, like Lake Placid. Kim Buckley has been in contact with other recreation departments (Rutland) for programing ideas. Currently, obtainment of WSI is the problem due to Red Cross not officially opened for training yet.

Ron Redmond will send a copy of the pool job descriptions out to the group.

Ben Hatch asked for the age range for swim lessons. Adult-Youth up to Level 5. Julian Cesner asked if any applicants have expressed interest yet. None to date. There are approximately 7-8 lifeguards returning, and others that have not yet responded. Kim Buckley intends to follow up with those that have not responded. Michelle Eckles thinks there is a large group of 15/16 year old youth wanting to become lifeguard certified and apply for lifeguard position, which may off-set the needs as summer gets under way. Kathy Rossier asked if there can be deliberate follow up again with Rutland program to determine if we can implement a modified lesson program this season. Bill Clark can help certify. Pool work group will follow up on the details and bring back to committee. Lisa Casey is excited to generate pool revenue by 'renting' the pool for group functions. Pool rates will be approved by city council, and then we can start publishing and promoting. Kathy Rossier asked if pool rates will be city/non-city, or one for all? Promotion needs to start happening now because this is when families are planning for summer activities and reserve.

C. **Grants**, see attachment

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant proposal was not awarded. The archaeological survey was done, and the area found north and south of Mossy Brook are considered to be archeological sensitive area that require rerouting to bypass those areas; qualifications by the state of Vermont (Scott Dillon) stating that the trail will not interfere with the archeological

sensitive area; or additional testing/dig before proceeding on any trail work. Matt Hawes will update the committee next month on work moving forward.

Tim Cook asked how they quantify this could be a sensitive area. Matt Hawes stated that a rating system/points system is used, page 11-12 in the survey report sent via email. Matt Hawes will forward the survey report to the group to look over.

The Hoehl Foundation has offered the Vergennes Partnership a 2:1 match for the Phase 1 goal of \$287,850, up to \$191,900 with \$15,000 up front to support the cost of the structural engineer and design. This means that Vergennes would be responsible for raising \$95,950. Jeremy Holm suggests using all the available watershed funds towards this need. He also has recently gotten permission to screen a fright fest night in October where part of the proceeds will go to Rec Committee. Robyn Newton and Kathy Rossier will be presenting to the city council on April 27th, sharing Hoehl grant, expectations of the grant, and funds already raised (\$10,000 from VUES community families).

Elise Shanbacker asked if the committee will vote on these decisions and what the watershed funds to go towards. Yes, there will be discussion on prioritizing and fundraising so that we do not need to use up all the funds on one project.

Jeremy Holm makes a motion that the committee recommends to the city council that we request the Watershed funds up to the amount needed to get the matching Hoehl grants, less the funds we raise ourselves and other city funding allowed to use. Jill Murray-Killon seconds. Tim Cook is concerned with an open-ended amount that may reduce public input. He would recommend an ask of \$20,000 to be a good match. Ben Hatch has concern about blowing all funds on pavilion with other identified priorities. Elise Shanbacker feels that same as Ben Hatch and would like to come back to the pavilion ask after more discussion on other areas. Robyn Newton thinks that the city council is going to want a hard number, but not use entire amount in Watershed. Jeremy Holm amends the motion to 'up to \$30,000 minus the amount raised'. As a member of the community, Elise Shanbacker asks for further discussion on goals and priorities in other areas of recreation before locking into a set amount of Watershed used for pavilion. Ben Hatch makes a motion to table Jeremy Holm's motion until more discussion on other areas. Julian Cesner seconds. Jill Murray-Killon asks for expansion on statement. Elise Shanbacker clarified that she reads the community survey as other items are priority, not just the pavilion. Jeremy Holm offered that the survey did identify the want for a central hub/location for recreation and thus the focus on the pavilion. Tim Cook reminded the group that funds have been distributed to the trails also this year. All agree to table until after further discussion later in the meeting.

D. Programming, see attachment

Addition to the report: Basin Harbor is offering a \$10 Golf Clinic on Tuesdays at 4pm for all Vergennes Residence. They will also be offering to all Vergennes Residence a \$20 off green fees after 1pm (cost is \$35). Golf course opens Saturday, April 24th.

Feedback surveys are going out to all program participants asking about their experience.

Michelle Eckels asked about vacation week concerns with current covid cases? Kim Buckley will be available for all check ins to monitor and take attendance. Mike Daniels asked if contact tracing will be available. Kim Buckley stated that everyone will need to pre-register to participate in hopes of better oversight. There is a COVID waiver that needs to be filled out by participants. Kim Buckley asked Ron Redmond if a new thermometer could be purchased to take temperatures.

Kim Buckley confirmed that Public Works parks maintenance funds are being used for resurfacing the tennis courts and not recreation funds. They will get done but may not be able to accomplish before June.

Fishing derby will be virtual again this year. Current fishing derby committee would like to step aside in 2022 and wondering if Vergennes Rec could take on.

Kathy Rossier encouraged everyone to check out the Vergennes Recreation website! Lots of great programming happening, and the site looks great.

6:40pm 6. Budget: remaining 2021 and proposed 2022, no attachment

Kim Buckley reported out that there is roughly \$5,500 remaining in recreation budget that needs to be spent by June 30, 2021, less the allocated spending that has not yet been deduced (Rink Annex \$1,000). Pool shed is getting paid out of different fund.

Julian Cesner is asking the work groups to meet ASAP and create priorities on spending. Identify short term and long-term spending needs within each group, and then bring to city council to plan. To help with that work, work groups need to be clearly identified, with facilitator, time to meet, and generation of ideas for spending.

Robyn Newton asked about other funds (revenue from programming) and if that also needs to be spent down. Julian Cesner offered that revenue does not need to be spent by June 30th. Mel Hawley will follow up with Ron Redmond, Kim Buckley, and Julian Cesner to get a better understanding how to amend and set up budget line items for better understanding and use of funds.

Generated use of funds ideas:

- Recruitment incentive to lifeguards/manager (certification)
- Deferred maintenance of the pool roof (translucent area)
- Bumping the electrical/water to phase one on the pavilion

Robyn Newton expressed frustration on budget unclarity. After three years of committee formation, we are still in the dark about the budget and available sources (short term and long).

\$11,000 available in the city budget to be spent on Vergennes events. Funds accumulated over time – used to be Vergennes Day, but then changed when more events were added. Funds to be used towards events, but city council decision on the policy of the fund.

Kathy Rossier asked for clarification on FY22 budget building and wondering if April 27th city council meeting is to bring forward the Recreation Committee ask for the year? Ron Redmond clarified that he envisions the April 27th council meeting ‘presentation’ to be aspirational, showing where we have come from and where we are hoping to go. Kathy Rossier asked if the department is going to be level funded or can we increase? For example, if there is a big need. Ron Redmond recommends work groups to identify needs from 2022, as well as a smaller group to come together to discuss the budget set up, presentation and ask from the council. Ideas would then be brought to recreation committee during the May meeting for discussion, then brought to city council for consideration in May/June.

7:00pm 7. Action Programming: projects/associated costs 2021-25, see attachment

For respect of time, we will focus on FY22 goals and fill in work groups for tonight’s meeting. Erin Shanbacker would like to recommend that each work group would meet before the next meeting in May to look at the plan and fill in the 2021-25 work plan, pushing this work to the work groups. Robyn Newton asked about the priorities identified with Jon Kidde. Tim Cook confirmed the goals during those work sessions included: Trails, Rink/Pavilion, Pool.

Jeremy Holm would make an amendment to his amendment to motion of \$30,000 to ask the city council from Watershed fund for match to Hoehl grant. Ben Hatch suggests \$20,000 so not to drain completely. Tim Cook added that the accumulation of the funds does take time and once used it take time (years) to replenish. Mel Hawley added that the mathematical exercise to figure out what the exact amount is, city council has the right to spend down to \$350,000. The Hoehl project could tap into the Water Tower funding, and committee should have a copy of the Water Tower policy for clarification of use. The committee should not focus on the minor details of where the funds are coming from, but instead ask the council for what is needed (identified by the committee) and let the council find the sources of funds and amount to allocate. After discussion, Jeremy Holm confirms his motion that the recreation committee ask city council for \$30,000 towards matching funds from the Hoehl grant. Tim Cook seconds. All in agreement.

7:10pm 8. Work Groups: further clarification and discussion, see attachment pg 9

Work Groups, as of April 2021:

Name of Work Group	Group Members	Facilitator/Reporter
Financial	Julian Cesner* Kim Buckley Ron Redmond	Julian Cesner
Parks/Facilities	Ron Redmond Kathy Rossier* Ben Hatch* Julian Cesner* Erin Wolcott	Ron Redmond

	Mike Daniels Kim Buckley Jim Larrow	
Pool	Lisa Casey* Michelle Eckels* Ben Hatch* Kim Buckley	Lisa Casey
Trails	Matt Hawes* Tim Cook* Ben Hatch* Kim Buckley Glenn Rossier Elise Shanbacker	Matt Hawes
Programming/Events	Kim Buckley Kathy Rossier* Michelle Eckels* Robyn Newton* Mike Daniels	Kim Buckley
Fundraising	Jeremy Holm* Kathy Rossier* Robyn Newton* Mike Daniels Jill Murray-Killon*	Jeremy Holm
Pavilion	Robyn Newton* Kathy Rossier* Lynne Rapoport* Vergennes Partnership	

When appropriate, each work group will submit a written report of monthly activity to the committee secretary no later than the end-of-day Thursday before regularly scheduled monthly meeting, to allow for timely distribution of meeting materials for review.

Work groups will identify a group facilitator, who will ensure a written report is submitted when appropriate.

Work Groups can consist of committee members (no more than quorum), and any community members interested.

Ron Redmond gives kudos to all that have put in time to the Hoehl proposal and pavilion project. Julian Cesner would like to give thanks to Erin Roche for her time and efforts into the pavilion project and the recreation department. Many thanks to Tim Cook for his leadership and service on the committee.

7:30pm 9. Adjournment

Julian Cesner motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm, and Ben Hatch seconds. All in favor.

Veterans Park Pavilion Project
May 2021 Update
Kathy R and Robyn N

At the May 23rd, 2021 Vergennes City Council Meeting the council voted unanimously to approve using \$30,000. from the Water Tower Fund to help match the 2:1 Hoehl Family Foundation Grant.

There was a site meeting on Friday, May 30th, 2021, with Pete Zelonis from Artisan Engineering, Tim Parente from Parente Construction, Andy Husk from Oak Hill Builders, Kathy R, Robyn N, Jeremy H. and Glenn R. Since that meeting, Brent Rakowski and Pete Zelonis have been in contact with each other to lay out the next steps in terms of site plan and design. Stay Tuned.

Otter Creek Engineering will be scheduling a site survey . Kathy will contact the Division of Fire Safety to determine what is needed for the Building Permit.

After speaking with the two engineers (Brent and Pete) it was determined that a project manager is not needed yet. We have been told we will need inspectors along the way to inspect concrete, footings, etc.

Fundraising report :Jeremy Holm

Fund Raising Work Group Report

May 4, 2021

The fundraising work group met twice to prioritize donor lists, fundraising pyramid order fundraising donor targets. We have begun to ask and get responses from a few of our donors. With the \$30,000 the City Council has given us, we have thus far raised \$65,000, and still need \$30,000 to reach our phase one goal. Thus far our donors include municipal, charitable organizations, major individual sponsors, and members of our community. We feel these groups represent a whole of community buy in and will paint us in a favorable with the Houel Family Foundation. Folks seem eager to help this effort, and we see it as a catalyst for furthering our overarching goals as a committee. We have much to do, and will be asking the general public for donations soon!

We have also begun to brainstorm and plan fundraising events over the coming months, one of which has a date and sponsorship from out of state supporters of the Opera House.

We also attended a site meeting to get a clearer picture of the scope of project, and identified a project manager who will step in after the design and engineering phase to begin work.

We feel that we are on the right track to take advantage of the momentum given us by the City's support, and all the work done over the past few years to get this project off the ground.

Public Places have never been more prized, now is the time!

Sam Fishman Pool Sub-Group

Ben Hatch, Michelle Eckels, Lisa Casey, Kathy Rossier

May 2021

Update page 1

The Vergennes Recreation Committee Pool Sub-Group advised on the following over the past month in conjunction with Kim Buckley and Ron Redmond.

- The proposed daily and annual season pass rates were approved as well as the schedule at the April 27th City Council meeting. Purchase of Pool Pass will begin 5/18 on MyRec.
~Please see attachment for more information.
- Kim and Lisa interviewed two candidates for the “Pool Manager” position. We have made the recommendation to the Pool Sub-Group members who could not attend the interviews. We hope to have a commitment from the recommended candidate by the end of this week and will make the announcement.
- Lifeguard open positions have now been posted and should start to receive applications.
- Lifeguard Certification and Re-Certification class will be held at the pool and classroom of the Vergennes Rescue Squad. Class A: May 29th & June 5th Class B: May 30th and June 6th from 8am-5pm. These courses will be run by Bill Clark.
~Please see attachment for more information.
- The failed pump in the pump house has now been repaired. Jim Larrow was able to find a pump and retrofit with the old one for a very low cost. Seems to be repaired and working at this time.
- Michelle Eckels and Kim Buckley will be meeting to develop the swim instruction program for the season. Once completed this information will become available to the public for sign-ups through MyRec. They will also develop those Lifeguards who would like to teach their ability on how to “teach a lesson” to the participants.
- Mark Koenig started the repair work on the pool last week and identified 13 hotspots, most of which were under the black tile on the pool floor. Yikes! This is more than the usual 5 or so we find each spring. Mark is currently repairing as weather permits. Michelle Eckels has started caulking the perimeter as well as cracks in the pool floor. Mark is recommending a sealant to cover the interior of the pool to “patch” us through for this season. Estimated cost of \$500. There is more work to be done than originally thought. We are identifying the needs and will need to have a quick action plan in order to get pool filled and usable this month.
- The facility needs another inspection. This inspection would be different from the last one we had from the *Aquatic Development Group* in 2016. Currently, we need to assess the structural integrity of the pool and what is going on underneath. I (*Lisa Casey*) have reached out to ADG and will also research other companies. The last inspection was \$4,000 and paid for by the City of Vergennes.

Sam Fishman Pool Sub-Group

Ben Hatch, Michelle Eckels, Lisa Casey, Kathy Rossier

May 2021

Update page 2

- The group submitted the below to Julian Cesner an estimated list of items to come out the current budget prior to the end of the fiscal year:

Lifeguard 6.5 Foot Diameter Fiberglass Umbrella with Marine Grade Canopy

Estimate: \$265 a piece

Need: 2

Total Estimate: \$530

7.5 Foot Diameter Fiberglass Beach Umbrella with Acrylic Canopy and Ashwood Pointed Pole, Vent and Valance

Estimate: \$345 a piece

Need: 5

Total Estimate: \$1,725

Fiberbuilt Concrete 55 Lb Umbrella Base 19 Inch Diameter

Estimate: \$70 a piece

Need: 5

Total Estimate: \$350

Replacement of Plexi-Glass Skylights along the length of the bathhouse roof.

Currently leaks and covered in mold which hinders natural light to enter.

Estimate: \$TBD

Pending Items:

- Public Works will build an 8x12 shed to hold the chemicals. The estimated cost is \$3500.
Update: *PW will not be able to build the shed until fall 2021.*
- Kim is working with Public Works to change the locks on the three gates at the pool. She is also working on a better system for loaning out keys and ensuring they are returned at the end of each season. Assigning a number to each key and key holder is a suggestion. The lock on the door to the pool office will also need to be replaced
- Waiting to hear from the City on the final height for the diving blocks. May need to have a discussion on permanent vs. removable blocks at this time until we determine the structural integrity of the pool structure. Would not want to cause additional damage to pool deck by drilling in the permanent blocks. Will have the discussion with the inspector.

[illegible]

Sam Fishman Pool
Rates 2021

Daily Fees

Age 18-55	<i>Age 5 and Under</i>	<i>Free</i>
Over 55	<i>Age 6-17</i>	<i>\$3</i>
Age 6-17	<i>Age 18 & Up</i>	<i>\$5</i>

Season Pass- Vergennes Residents

Single Person	<i>Single</i>	<i>\$60</i>
Family	<i>Family</i>	<i>\$130</i>
Seniors (55+)	<i>Senior (65+)</i>	<i>\$55</i>

Season Pass- Non Residents

Single Person	<i>Single</i>	<i>\$85</i>
Family	<i>Family</i>	<i>\$155</i>
Seniors (55+)	<i>Senior (65+)</i>	<i>\$65</i>

Lessons

Residents	Residents	\$60
Non residents	Non Residents	\$75



Two Classes Are Available:

We are happy to offer two complete lifeguard classes in May and June. One class will be offered on Saturdays and the other on Sundays.

Class Prerequisites

This class requires several swimming tests including a 300-yard continuous swim, a timed skill that includes retrieving a brick from deep water and other skills. Please visit WWW.VERGENNESREC.ORG for a full list of prerequisites.

Course Dates/Times/Locations:

Class A: Saturdays May 29 & June 5 from 8am-5pm

Class B: Sundays May 30 & June 6 from 8am-5pm

Classes will be taught at the Vergennes Pool with some content at the Vergennes Rescue Squad.

A full schedule with locations will be provided to students.

Course Fee:

\$325. A CPR mask and lifeguard fanny-pack will be provided as a part of this fee

Online Content:

This is a blended-learning class that will require approximately 7 hours of coursework to be performed online before 3/27. There is no additional fee for the online content.

How to Sign Up:

These classes are being offered through the City of Vergennes Parks & Recreation Program. Please visit WWW.VERGENNESREC.ORG to register.

After you sign up, you will receive a welcome letter with additional details.

Recertification Class

We are also offering two recertification opportunities on Friday, 5/28 and Friday, 6/4 from 4pm-9pm. The course fee is \$125. Please visit WWW.VERGENNESREC.ORG for details.

About the Instructor:

Bill Clark first became a lifeguard in 1989 and served as an emergency medical services responder and instructor for 15 years. He has years of real-life experience using the skills presented in this class, which allows him to truly prepare students for their important roles as lifeguards.

Brief

Members Present: Elise, Ben, Matt

*Tim sent us an email with some suggestions of areas to focus on.

*Elise took notes during the meeting

Goals

During the meeting we came up with three goals; to increase the mileage of trails in Vergennes, to increase the connectivity of trails in Vergennes, and to increase types of usage and number of users of trails in Vergennes.

Short Term 2021-2022

With these goals in mind we created some short or medium term priorities that can hopefully be accomplished in the next year or two. We focused on the areas of the Vergennes Pedestrian Loop that still need to be connected and completed. So far some of the main areas we thought would be worthwhile to complete are; the section of trail down by MacDonough Park between the boat launch and the falls, a section of trail between Armory Lane and 22A/ Main St., the section of the Rail Trail that connects the train station to the downtown area, and the Vergennes Connector Trail.

Long Term

The long-term priorities we identified were working with Job Corps. to establish trail systems on farm roads behind their property, the hillside Acres Parcel, and the old shipping towpath along the Otter Creek.

Budget and Spending

Creating uniform signage for Vergennes Trails and Parks, kiosks with sign-in registers at trailheads, and better maps of our parks are all ideas we had for spending some of the FY21 funds before they expire.

Good candidates we identified for spending in the FY22 budget are the aforementioned sections of the Pedestrian Loop; the sections MacDonough Park, Armory Lane, Rail Trail, and Vergennes Connector Loop.

Volunteer Organization, Trail Publicity, and Community Support

It would be beneficial to have a central way to organize and publicize volunteer days. If it were possible to make a section of the MyRec page that enabled scheduling of volunteer trail days and allowed community members to sign up for these volunteer trail days, this could generate support and energize community involvement and interest. Also, creating a volunteer position and designating an individual or group as Trail Steward of Vergennes could go a long way to furthering this process. This person or group could be responsible for scheduling volunteer trail days as well as assessing and designating maintenance or other work that needs to be done on trails around Vergennes.

Recreation Coordinator Report
Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
May 12, 2021

Upcoming Summer Programs

The Golf Club at Basin Harbor: Vergennes Residents get \$35 green fees | M-F after 1 PM for 18 holes
Golf Clinic: Tuesdays from 4-5 PM | Ages 18+ | July 1 - August 31
Bird Walking Adventures: June 8th from 8 – 10AM | Ages 18+
Soccer Sparks: Session 2 June 18 - July 16 | Session 3 August 6 – August 27 | Ages 2-12
Jr Fishing Derby: June 26th – July 11th | Ages 3-15
Skateboard Clinic with MJ Hayyat: Tuesdays from 3-4 PM | Ages 8-12 | June 22nd, 29th, July 13th, 20th
Water Aerobics with Kathy: Mondays and Tuesdays during Senior Swim | Ages 18+
Disc Golf Clinic: July 25th at 11 AM | Ages 18+

Pending Summer Programming

Tennis in the Park, USTA – 3 Week Program: Mondays and Wednesdays | July & September | Ages 8+
Lawn Bowling: August 14 | Ages 10-15
Fitter and Faster Swim: 2 or 3-day clinic | August | Ages 11-18
Let's Go Fishing Clinic, Martha DeGraaf: 1 day clinic | August | Ages 7-15

Process for Program Approval, Promotion and Cancellation

	Season	Program Instructor Information Due	Finalizing Instructor Contracts	Promotion	Cancel: Minimum Not Met <small>(or earlier upon instructor's request)</small>
WINTER	Dec - Feb	October 15	November 1	November 10	48 hours
SPRING	Mar - May	January 15	February 1	February 10	48 hours
SUMMER	Jun - Aug	April 15	May 1	May 10	48 hours
FALL	Sep - Nov	July 15	August 1	August 10	48 hours

Updates

Summer Intern: Ron and I will be hiring a summer intern to assist with planning fall programming and assist the City with various City Hall marketing/ website management.