

STAFFORD RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Staffordville School & Zoom Video Conference
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: Wednesday January 14, 2026

Members: Chairman - Dave Bachiochi, Secretary - open, Harold Blake Hatch, Tom Topping, Bill Utermarck, Jose Scarpa, James Talamini, Steve Munn

Members Present: Dave Bachiochi, Harold Blake Hatch, Tom Topping, James Talamini, Jose (Pepe) Scarpa, Bill Utermarck

Members Absent: Steve Munn

Recreation Director: (Open)

Guests Present (in person): Nick Boudreau, Nick Trainor, Andy Roland

- 1.) **Call Meeting to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm with six (6) members present (Three in the room, three on Zoom) and three guests present in the room. We did NOT enable audio recording of the meeting due to technical issues.
**- Regarding one other point of order, all draft documents are uploaded to the following working link [Stafford Recreation](https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1439549) (https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1439549) to facilitate discussion within the meeting as well as outside of the meeting. Each document will be published with the meeting minutes on the town website when appropriate once finalized.
- 2.) **Review and Accept Minutes** from previous meeting (11/18)
 - a. On a **MOTION** by James, seconded by Pepe, the minutes of the December 10, 2025 commission meeting were approved unanimously.
- 3.) **Public Comment & Correspondence:**
 - a. The budget was submitted including the additional funding requests per our previous meeting. Dave was invited to defend the budget and answer questions at the Feb 4 Selectman’s meeting.
 - b. There has been a leadership change at Stafford Little League Baseball and Softball. Representatives joined our meeting. The new board is currently preparing for the upcoming season. Transition is pretty much complete, financials are in order, and we will look forward to a report at our next meeting.
 - c. There is some interest from the Community Center in offering some “non-sports” activities evenings at the Staffordville School. Dave mentioned the need to iron out an online registration and fee collection implementation and verify insurance liability coverage. SLL has a somewhat related insurance concern about allowing use of the Kealy batting cage. Nick B and Dave are following up.
 - d. Parks department (Jeremy) emailed a concern about the safety of ice skating on the family skate side of the Legion rink. There is an area where the ice is less safe, and a new sign is suggested.

Schedule of Regular Meetings for CY 2026 (2nd Wednesday except July and August):
Jan 14, ~~Feb 11~~, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13, Jun 10, Sep 9, Oct 14, Nov 18, Dec 9

4.) Old Business:

- a. **Youth Sports Registration Calendar** ** for town website. Dave reviewed the latest draft table of basic information. He continues to request that each sports organization validate the content.
- b. **Youth Sports Reporting Governance (activity inventory plus financials)** ** Dave has recently requested that each youth sports program submit their information as requested in the governance document. And he volunteered to meet individually with any organization that wants help with completing the request. Several organizations are working and Dave continues to reach out to make sure all understand.
- c. **Recreation Director Going Forward:** Discussion to occur at the budget review with the Selectmen on Feb 4. Otherwise tabled until next meeting.

5.) New Business:

- a. **Enabling Summer Rec Swimming instruction:** Tabled until next month.
- b. **Long Term Recreation Strategy:** It is becoming imperative to put a strategy into writing, and that exercise should start as soon as possible. Dave shared an experience he had in Saint Petersburg, FL at a neighborhood park that included a wide range of multi-generational activities in one place, something that would be a great vision for Hyde Park. Nick B indicated that there is still an interest in keeping at least one baseball/softball field there.

6.) Future Business Topics

- a. **Active engagement to increase youth sports/activities enrollments:**
- b. **Collaboration with nearby towns for programs not offered in Stafford:**
- c. **Staffordville School & Recreation activities public discussion:**

7.) Adjourn

- a. Dave indicated that our next meeting scheduled in February will be cancelled. Barring the need to act any sooner the next meeting will be Wednesday March 11, 2026. On a **MOTION** by Bill, seconded by Tom, the commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Bachiochi, Acting Recording Secretary

Signature

Date