

STAFFORD RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Staffordville School & Zoom Video Conference
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: Wednesday April 8, 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, James Talamini, Tom Topping

Members Absent: Jose (Pepe) Scarpa, Steve Munn, Bill Utermarck

Recreation Director: (Open)

Guests Present (in person): David A Bachiochi

- 1.) **Call Meeting to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm with four (4) members present (three in the room, one on Zoom) and one guest present in the room. We did NOT enable audio recording.
**- 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 (03/11)
 - a. On a **MOTION** by Blake, seconded by Tom, the minutes of the March 11, 2026 commission meeting were approved unanimously.
- 3.) **Public Comment & Correspondence:**
 - a. After last meeting, DPW and SLL met to address the Kealy Field maintenance concerns.
 - b. Youth wrestling (Dave neglected to mention) is looking into relocating into SVS and expanding their season beyond the winter months.
 - c. Special Olympics Stafford Chapter has requested to be added to the StaffordSports.org web page with our other youth and adult links.
 - d. Dave B responded to an inquiry regarding the town position from last year's SLL dispute. No further update at this time.
 - e. **Rec Budget status:** The budget was submitted including the additional funding requests per our previous meeting. The funding requested has been included with the Selectman's budget that was approved at the April 7 Public Hearing. The formal vote to move to referendum is April 28 in advance of the May 5 referendum.
- 4.) **New Business:**
 - a. **Long Term Recreation Strategy:** We want to lay out a strategic approach to providing recreational activities for residents of all ages. The commission started a brainstorming activity about what elements should be included in such a strategy. Once the elements are identified, a current state can be documented and a future state can be imagined. Developing a whole new outdoor surface to use, a new turf field, finding places for disc golf, skateparks, field lighting, indoor and outdoor pickleball, ice skating, floor hockey, sandlot volleyball,

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

adult fitness programs, arts and crafts, playgrounds, etc. are just some of the activities in play. A strategy around an enhanced town blanket insurance policy, and the implementation of an online registration and payment platform is needed. A strategy around the town facilities – parks, fields, hiking trails, outdoor courts, indoor gyms – must be closely linked. Dave volunteered to assemble a draft of such a strategy document to serve as a basis for a working group. There is some history to call on from an exercise a few years ago for the POCD. It seems appropriate to reconvene the focus group from a couple years ago for input into this document. We should target to complete first draft by the end of May and final before end of June.

- b. **Enabling Summer Rec Swimming instruction:** Tabled again.

5.) Old Business:

- a. **Recreation Director Approach:** No discussion on this topic but the development of the long-term Recreation Strategy could help get any part-time director off and running.
- b. **Youth Sports Registration Calendar **** for town website. Dave has previously indicated that he expects a substantial update to StaffordSports.org web page to be published soon.
- c. **Youth Sports Reporting Governance (activity inventory plus financials) **** Dave has requested that each youth sports program submit their information as requested in the governance document. The offer stands 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 what is expected and when. We are still needing information from youth basketball and expecting some responses soon.

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 for Wednesday May 13, 2026 is cancelled. He will look to see if we can get a quorum on May 20 or just wait until the June 10 regular meeting.
- b. On a **MOTION** by Blake, seconded by James, the commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Bachiochi, Acting Recording Secretary

Signature

Date