

**STAFFORD RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Staffordville School & Zoom Video Conference**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Date: Wednesday June 11, 2025**

**Members:** Chairman - Dave Bachiochi, Secretary - open, Harold Blake Hatch, Tom Topping, Todd Levesque, Bill Utermarck, Jose Scarpa, Matt Martel, Tyler Hanna, James Talamini, Steve Munn

**Members Present:** Dave Bachiochi, Harold Blake Hatch, Tom Topping, Jose Scarpa, James Talamini, Todd Levesque, Steve Munn

**Members Absent:**, Bill Utermarck, Tyler Hanna, Matt Martel

**Recreation Director:** (Open)

**Guests Present (in person):** Rich Smith, David A. Bachiochi

- 1.) **Call Meeting to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm with seven (7) members present (Four in the room, three on Zoom). Dave indicated that the Zoom meeting was being recorded.
- 2.) **Review and Accept Minutes** from previous meeting (04/14)
  - a. Upon review, two changes were made to the 4/14 meeting minutes. Blake rather than “Bill” made the suggestion to visit the Middletown headquarters, and the phrase regarding two signatures “and implementing two signatures for large purchases” was removed. On a **MOTION** by James, seconded by Todd, the amended minutes of the April 14, 2025 commission meeting were approved unanimously.
- 3.) **Correspondence:**
  - a. **Membership update.** No action taken yet on the status of members who have not participated in recent meetings.
  - b. **Stafford Baseball Academy.** Recent correspondence centered around a meeting held with Selectman Bill Morrison, Rec Chair Dave Bachiochi, Stafford Baseball Academy leaders Andy Roland and Nick Boudreau, and SLL leadership Rich Smith, Mark Lindahl, JJ Martorelli and Jason Joseph. Bill called the meeting to mediate the differences between the two parties, with a goal of finding common ground to operate the kids programs this spring and convince the two parties to come back together either this spring or by next spring. Substantial discussion ensued. All parties agreed that long term operating mode for the Sandlot program that the Stafford Baseball Academy is planning is best served under the auspices of a single Little League organization. Concerns were expressed by both parties about how to operate and collaborate. It became evident in the days after that meeting that a difference of opinion remained. The Commission took no other action, so much of the rest of the discussion is not included.
- 4.) **New Business:**
  - a. **Current Fiscal Year Stipend Requests:** Stafford youth baseball and softball, and Stafford youth soccer have submitted stipend requests along with all appropriate documentation. The baseball and softball requests are intended to offset tree removal costs, and I expect the town

**Schedule of Regular Meetings for CY 2025 (2nd Wednesday except July and August):**  
*Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 14, Jun 11, Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10*

hall to simply process the fund transfer. Dave noted that there will be no grace period for other organizations to submit their requests. The fiscal year ends on June 30. Dave will include an agenda item for the next meeting to discuss consolidating the annual reporting that the Rec Commission requests of the youth organizations.

- b. **Recreation Director Going Forward:** No new information available. The chair noted that Amber has done a great job getting the Summer Rec program in place this summer. Diana has also assembled a great looking staff as evidenced by a recent social media post. Program announcements have indicated that the program enrollment has reached 85% of capacity already.

#### 5.) Old Business:

- a. **FY 2025-2026 Budget Status:** This is unchanged from previous status. The Board of Selectman have removed the stipends budgeted for our youth sports programs (\$9,400) as part of the cost cutting brought on by the budget referendum failures. The elimination of such funding will shift a fund-raising burden onto the youth programs.
- b. **Signage for Smoking, Vaping, etc. at youth fields:** following recent approval for signage at youth sporting locations, Dave B purchased sign indicating No Smoking, Vaping, Drug or Alcohol use. They are the same signs that Rich purchased and installed at Kealy Field. This batch is installed at Stafford High and Stafford Middle schools at the fields used for youth soccer.

#### 6.) Adjourn

- a. Dave indicated that our next meeting will be moved to Wednesday September 17, 2025. On a **MOTION** by Todd, seconded by Blake, the commission unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Dave Bachiochi, Acting Recording Secretary

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Date

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Signature