

STAFFORD RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Staffordville School & Zoom Video Conference
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: Wednesday October 8, 2025

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

Members Absent: Steve Munn, Bill Utermarck, Jose Scarpa

Recreation Director: (Open)

Guests Present (in person): David A. Bachiochi

- 1.) **Call Meeting to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm with four (4) members present (One in the room, three on Zoom) and one guest in the room. Dave struggled to use the new Webinar Zoom and reverted to the previous Zoom call to complete the meeting. Thus the late start.
- 2.) **Review and Accept Minutes** from previous meeting (09/17)
 - a. On a **MOTION** by Blake, seconded by Tom, the minutes of the September 17, 2025 commission meeting were approved unanimously.
- 3.) **Public Comment & Correspondence:**
 - a. **Membership update.** Todd Levesque declined to renew his membership and it has expired. The Commission would like to thank Todd for his contributions over the past 10 years.
 - b. **Request for 2026 Regular Meeting calendar.** The discussion settled on keeping the second Wednesday of the month cadence starting at 7:00pm at Staffordville school and via Zoom. Excluding July and August. This is contingent upon further input from those absent.
- 4.) **New Business:**
 - a. **Active engagement to increase youth sports/activities enrollments:** Dave reviewed some correspondence with the Ellington Rec Director about successful ways to communicate with the community that are used in Ellington. Partnering with school communications, online presence, up to date email addresses for all families, and physical signage were all cited as valuable and effective. In person informational fairs can be effective when included with broader activities to attract attendees, including school functions, other non-sports activities or a celebrity. An advertising budget should be established. Amber had previously volunteered to help publicize youth program registrations on the town website if we provided her timely information. Dave has most of that information from the youth sports programs, will summarize in a more concise document, confirm with the sports programs, and share with Amber.
 - b. **Enabling Summer Rec Swimming instruction:** Previously, Steve advocated that we work vigorously to reinstate swimming lessons at Staffordville Lake in time for next summer. It improves overall safety when more people know how to swim and the lessons event itself creates a safe social space. After some brief discussion about getting started early and identifying potential instructors, Dave essentially tabled this as an agenda item until next

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

meeting. There is a consensus that this be explicitly included in our major improvements priorities.

- c. **Collaboration with nearby towns for programs not offered in Stafford:** Tabled until next month.
- d. **Staffordville School & Recreation activities public discussion:** Tabled until next month.
- e. **Long Term Recreation Strategy:** Tabled until next month.

5.) Old Business:

- a. **Youth Sports Reporting consolidation (activity inventory plus financials):** Dave is proposing we combine the reporting requirements we request from the youth sports program regarding activity and financial reporting, and adjust the schedule for them to occur seasonally at the end of their respective primary playing season. This can serve to minimize the burden on the youth organizations and allow time to address any concerns prior to the next season.
- b. **Recreation Director Going Forward:** Tabled until next month's meeting. Dave hopes to brief the selectman candidates prior to our next meeting.

6.) Adjourn

- a. Dave indicated that our next meeting will be Wednesday November 12, 2025. On a **MOTION** by Blake, seconded by Tom, the commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Bachiochi, Acting Recording Secretary

Signature

Date