

HOLLIS RECREATION COMMISSION

August 27, 2026

Attendees: Emalee Sattler, Dave Belanger, Erica Crea, Will Walker, Chelsea Lennartz, Cindy VanCoughnett, Mike Coulombe

The meeting was opened at 6:31 PM.

July Minutes: Chelsea noted that July meeting minutes were not available because she was not present. She will reach out to Jake, who covered the meeting, so the minutes can be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

Portables: Erica reported that the New Hampshire Soccer League season has been pushed back and that the current portable restroom contract ends before the season ends. The contract will need to be extended to November 6 for Hardy North/South. The Commission discussed whether to keep one portable through the winter for field users, runners, and DPW. Dave noted that keeping all portables through the winter would cost approximately \$2,000. Erica will look into whether one portable can remain through the winter and what budget line could support the cost.

USTA Tennis in the Park: Erica presented fall dates for USTA Tennis in the Park, running September 8 through October 13, with a rain date of October 20. The program is already full and has a growing waitlist. Classes include Grades 1-3 from 4:30-5:30 PM, Grades 4-6 from 5:30-6:30 PM, and adult beginner lessons from 6:30-8:00 PM. The program will be held on Tuesdays and does not interfere with pickleball use. Erica noted that the program may also support future grant opportunities for the Hardy West tennis courts.

MOTION by Dave to approve Tennis in the Park, 2nd by Chelsea.

APPROVED.

OHD Village Homestead: Erica reported that the OHD Village Homestead planning is going well. The Commission discussed the possibility of continuing a similar program in the spring or fall. The event will take place on September 19th from 9am-12pm.

Fall Programming: Erica reviewed upcoming fall programming. A seasonal hand-tied bouquet workshop is scheduled for September 26th. Erica noted that she booked the program before realizing she could not attend, and Emalee offered to run it. The prior fairy bouquet workshop with Scout Hill Farm was successful, and the current waitlist already has six participants.

Trunk or Treat is scheduled from 3:00-5:00 PM. A previous library program that hasn't been able to run is going to be revived by recreation. The pumpkin program has been renamed "I Am So Excited I Can Explode" and is scheduled for October 22nd. Erica and Chelsea will cut pumpkins and children will scoop out the inside, then a mixture of vinegar and baking soda will "explode. Children can pick the color and learn about chemical reactions. All pumpkins and their remains will be composted or given to a farmer after the program.

After School Program, Adventure Club, BBA: The after-school program will run from September 15th through December at Beaver Brook. Chelsea and Erica will attend CPR and First Aid training at the firehouse next week, which is required for the program. Cindy may also attend so there will be some back up as participation as a volunteer guide requires First aid/CPR training. Recreation (Erica) will bring the snack materials and help on Tuesdays and Chelsea will be there Wednesday and Friday.

Budget: Erica reported that the budget is due October 9th. The Commission first discussed facilities improvement needs, including the baseball field at Little Nichols as these tend to be the largest change in annual expenditures. Mike noted that the current facilities improvement budget is \$30,000, with approximately \$8,000 used to date. Dave noted that unspent funds cannot be carried over, but the line can remain at that level next year because several projects still need to be completed as we may not be able to do those in time for this year.

The Commission discussed the horse arena irrigation and Hardy West water source options. Emalee mentioned the upcoming HAE meeting on September 3 at 6:30 PM at the barn and asked for a recreation presence to help answer questions regarding the system. Erica and Will

noted after thoroughly exploring all options, that there is not currently a viable water source. The Commission discussed a shed with a 1,000-gallon tank as a partial immediate solution that could be adapted in the future. A dug well for Hardy West was discussed as the long-term goal, with the understanding that Hardy West has not been approved.

The Commission also discussed future work at Little Nichols and Nichols, including a small shed, picnic tables near the playground, trash removal along the wood line by the track, and possibly keeping a portable restroom through the winter. Costs are needed, and the Commission discussed using excess facilities improvement funds where appropriate.

MOTION by Dave to approve up to \$1,500 for trash removal along the wood line at the Nichols Field track, 2nd by Chelsea.

APPROVED.

MOTION by Dave to approve up to \$1,500 for additional Nichols Field facilities improvements (picnic tables) as discussed, 2nd by Chelsea.

APPROVED.

Outdoor Bulletin Boards and Signs: Erica asked about ordering outdoor bulletin boards. The smaller bulletin board is approximately \$750.

MOTION by Dave to approve the purchase of an outdoor bulletin board, 2nd by Chelsea.

APPROVED.

The Commission also discussed signs for Hardy North and Hardy South at an estimated cost of \$600.

MOTION by Dave to approve signs for Hardy North and Hardy South, 2nd by Cindy.

APPROVED.

Maintenance and Regular Budget Items: Dave asked whether any maintenance or regular budget items need increases. Erica noted that most items are more expensive than in previous years, which is an across-the-board challenge. Suggested a 2% increase across the board to compensate.

Hardy West: Erica reported that the Hardy West bid opening is scheduled for September 14th and that interest has been high. This should provide a firm number to bring to the Board of Selectmen for a March warrant article.

Tennis Court RFQ: Erica reported that the tennis court RFQ opens September 2nd. She expressed concern that it may not receive much interest, and the Commission discussed forwarding it to resurfacing companies including the vendor who did the work previously.

Field Maintenance: The Commission briefly discussed possibly adding a one-inch 50/50 dressing when the Nichols field (track infield) is aerated. This is to help patch some of the heavy deterioration occurring at Nichols. The commission also discussed the need for a complete overall of the field. But priority must go first to Hardy North which is in even worse shape. Dave proposed having a back up warrant for Hardy North if Hardy West does not pass as we cannot delay the work another year due to the fields condition. Erica will reach out to her contacts to obtain numbers for such an article.

MOTION by Dave to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Cindy.

APPROVED.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Lennartz

