

Recreation Meeting Minutes

February 3 2026

Present: Vicki Donlan, Mark Thorell, Steven Buckley, Adrienne Ramsey, Steve Melia, Jacki Muh

Absent: Matt LeBretton

Guest:

- I. Vicki Donlan called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM remotely.

This meeting is being held in person and/or remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.

- II. A motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 6 was made by Adrienne Ramsey and seconded by Steven Buckley. It was unanimously approved.

Vote:

Steven Buckley: Yes

Adrienne Ramsey: Yes

Steve Melia: Yes

Vicki Donlan: Yes

- III. A motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 13 was made by Steven Buckley and seconded by Steve Melia. It was unanimously approved.

Vote:

Steven Buckley: Yes

Adrienne Ramsey: Yes

Steve Melia: Yes

Vicki Donlan: Yes

- IV. Program Update: Registration for the next session of East Explorers and Foster PLUS will begin next week. Mark listed the courses that will be available for the Winter Spring session.

Registration for all spring programming will be held on Friday, March 6th at 10am. Those programs include tennis, golf, Kid Kickers, street hockey, Strength + Power, volleyball, Pickleball, and skateboarding. The registration for adult spring programs will also be on March 6th at 10am. Those programs include Pickleball, tennis and golf.

The Recreation Department will be offering three Half day classes tomorrow for the early release day. There will be a Friday Night Event this upcoming Friday.

Town Hall will be using the Gameroom this upcoming Thursday for a Town Staff Tailgate to cheer on the New England Patriots.

Steve Melia asked if there is an opportunity to run after school programs at the Middle School. Mark mentioned that he would look into it but he does know there are a variety of teacher sponsored activities after school at the Middle School.

- V. Summer Program Update: The summer calendars were shown to the Commissioners. Hingham Public Schools announced the first day of school will be before Labor Day which cuts into the last week of camp. Camp will run June 22- August 28. Mark described each of the summer programs with their ages, times, theme days and trips. Registration will begin the first week of March and will be a staggered registration beginning with Teen Extreme on Tuesday, March 3rd.
- VI. Hingham Community Playground Hours of Operation: Last summer, the playground became so busy that we stopped allowing access to campers during the camp day. In general there were too many people on the playground and none of them have been CORI checked. Mark recommended for the Hingham Community Playground to be closed to the public from 9am until 10:30am, Monday- Friday over the ten week summer. This will allow two camp groups per day to have access to the playground. This would be similar to school playgrounds being closed to the public during recess. Adrienne asked why Mark chose only 9-10:30am and mentioned that Cohasset Recreation closes one of their playgrounds while camp is in session. Mark said he will look further into timing and make a decision.
- VII. Hersey Field Accessibility Project: The Conservation Committee confirmed that there are wetlands on the third base line that will impact the proposed walkway. The pathway could be created to connect the playground and spectator area. The playground is almost 20 years old and may have to be redone in the coming years. Mark's recommendation is to pull back on the project based on the wetlands and the age of the playground. His plan is to wait until the playground is redone to improve the accessibility between the bleachers and playground area. He does still plan to add the guard rails for safety. Steven Buckley agrees that pausing the project is a good idea. Mark will let Capital Outlay know. Vicki thanked the public for informing the Recreation Commission about the wetlands.
- VIII. FY 2026 Budget Update: The budget is currently healthy. Within the next few months, the Recreation Department will be paying for field trips capital projects like the guard rails at Hersey and Haley Field. Registration for summer camp will be the first week of March. The Fitness Room is a negative account because it is free to use. There have been more people utilizing the Fitness Room since it became free.
- IX. The next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30pm on Zoom.

- X. Steve Melia made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm and Steve Buckley seconded it. It was a unanimous vote.

Vote:

Steven Buckley: Yes

Adrienne Ramsey: Yes

Steve Melia: Yes

Vicki Donlan: Yes