

Recreation Meeting Minutes

April 8 2026

Present: Vicki Donlan, Mark Thorell, Steven Buckley, Steve Melia, Matt LeBretton and Jacki Muh

Absent: Adrienne Ramsey

Guest: Laura Donovan, Liza O'Reilly, Julianne Taylor

- I. Vicki Donlan called the meeting to order at 6:33 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 March 3 was made by Matt LeBretton and seconded by Steve Melia. It was unanimously approved.

Vote:

Matt LeBretton: Yes

Steve Melia: Yes

Vicki Donlan: Yes

- III. Program Update: With summer and spring registrations, there were over 5,300 sign ups in the month of March.
For the after school programs, the registration for the final session of East Explorers was yesterday. Registration for the final session of Foster PLUS will be tomorrow. Some of the classes offered are gardening, cupcake decorating, slime, STEM, Jiu-Jitsu, Magnitude Strength + Power, and others.
There is a Friday Night Event this upcoming Friday and the Recreation Department will be running child care for the upcoming Town Meeting.
Over April Vacation, there will be a Funky Feet April Break Camp and we will be running a Half Day April Break program.
This upcoming Friday is the Senior Service Day for the Seniors at the High School. There will be a group helping mulch over at the Rec Barn as well as a group spreading wood chips at Bradley Woods Playground.
Mark went through some of the spring enrollment numbers.

- IV. Summer Program Update: Hire letters were mailed out last Friday and all paperwork is due back next week. We will be hiring about 75 returning staff members, 50 new staff,

15 lifeguards, 11 managers and 30 CITs. There will be two orientations for staff and CITs. Those dates are Wednesday, June 10th and Saturday, June 13th. Mark reviewed the enrollment numbers for the summer programs and mentioned the end of the summer has great enrollment but he is hoping for more enrollments for the first half of the summer. Steve Melia asked what the commissioners can do to help. Mark answered that word of mouth is always great publicity.

- V. Pickleball Project Update: The Pickleball Project will go before the Conservation Commission at 7pm on Monday, April 13th. There is a Recreation Commission meeting posted for that day incase three or more Commissioners are planning on joining the Conservation Meeting.
- VI. Spring Turf Maintenance Discussion: For the past few years, the Recreation Department has had a contract with Shrewsbury Landscaping for many of the field projects. Shrewsbury sold their company to North Turf who has been doing the work so far this spring. The main contact from Shrewsbury Landscape is now working with North Turf for the next few months to help with the transition. The contract will end next May and the work will go out to bid.
All of the fields have been edged, graded, groomed and are ready for play. The Athletic Field Staff are out there every day grooming the 17 different infields. The irrigation will be turned on in April and slice seeding will begin in May.
- VII. FY 2026 Budget Update:
One of the line items for "Projects" is the seal coating of the tennis courts to help extend the life.
- VIII. The next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5th at 6:30pm on Zoom.
- IX. Matt LeBretton made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm and Steve Melia seconded it. It was a unanimous vote.
Vote:
Matt LeBretton: Yes
Steve Melia: Yes
Steven Buckley: Yes
Vicki Donlan: Yes