

Norwich Racquet Club  
Minutes March 9, 2021  
Zoom 6:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Norwich Racquet Club was held on March 9, 2021 by Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

Those in attendance: David Barlow, Judy Barwood, Scott Brohinski, Jeanne Floeckher, Bruce Genereaux, Sugar Genereaux, Dan Gottlieb, Brian Grady, Jim Petrillo.

President, Jim Petrillo opened the meeting at 6:06

The minutes of the January 26, 2021 meeting were approved with one correction on paragraph #3 under "Paddle" should read "use of our paddle courts" instead of tennis.

**Finance:**

Bruce Genereaux, treasurer, reported that Brian Grady, assistant treasurer, has been trained after 3 meetings which covered: PO Box, Dropbox, deposits, paddle ball and guest fee pick-up and the dues mailing. A copy of the dues request mailing will be shared with the Board for approval prior to mailing.

**Club Sign:**

After being blown down, the sign has been replaced. Dan Gottlieb has ordered two solar panels for lighting the sign from the ground up. He is waiting for the ground to thaw before installing them.

**Tennis:**

The Board agreed that contract times as arranged in prior years will be used unless there is a significant change in the State of Vermont COVID-19 regulations when contact information was required. This and use of the Gazebo will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Dan Gottlieb reported that he has received a bid from the previous court opening company and is awaiting a response for the timing of their work on the courts so a date can be decided for opening the courts. He discussed with the company the use of less material when prepping the courts. He also suggested the Board might consider when closing the courts in the fall to save the tapes and nails in order to save some money.

The engine for the court roller will be replaced by Quimby McBride who is experienced in car repair.

Dave Jones who traditionally runs a tennis sleep-away camp could possibly be available to offer tennis lessons to the membership who would pay him directly for the lesson clinics. It is undecided at this time the future of the camp this summer and it was noted that lesson time might conflict with contract playing times.

**Paddle:**

The playing surface of the paddle courts is becoming an issue with paint chipping. Spot painting will not really "fix" the surface and is not a reasonable solution to the problem. David Barlow discussed the problem with Rob Costa whose company Court Pro has worked on our courts in the past. Rob noted that the future of the court surface will soon need replacing. David distributed Bob's report to the Board. The project would entail: replacing the boards, removing and reusing the screens and necessary work under the courts. The cost would be \$100,000 and the project would take approximately 3 weeks.

**Paddle cont:**

Financing the project is an issue. It was felt that the cost of the project should be independent and not affect the quality of the club's normal operating expenses. Jim Petrillo will appoint a committee of board members to review the proposed estimate for court repairs and potential financing options. The committee will report recommendations to the board as soon as they have their due diligence in comparing the options.

David and Bruce noted that on essence the club is subsidizing as much as ½ of the cost of the paddle balls. Some members are not paying for their ball purchases which can amount to as much as \$500/year. Members will continue to be made aware of the financial loss. The Board will consider continuing to make balls available for sale. The ball payment box will be moved closer to the ball drawer and possibly a reminder sign will be put on the inside of the hut door. Bruce will assess the situation when next playing.

The entrance path to the paddle courts was discussed since it is either icy or flooded thus challenging players arriving to play in sneakers. Dan will ask Todd Alexander to sand the path more frequently. The board will consider crowning the path this summer.

The Dresden School district intensive program will use the paddle courts from May 18-21, Tuesday-Friday from 8:30 to 10:30. Todd Tyson and David Barlow will instruct the group which has 8 seniors already signed up. The court time will be donated which everyone agreed is good marketing for the future of the club.

**Pickle Ball:**

Jim Petrillo will contact Lang Durphy, owner Bethel Mills hardware who has purchased the Fogg's Hardware property to determine who owns the land behind the paddle hut and will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Respectively submitted:

Cadence Genereaux, Secretary.

