

Rec Committee Update 8/12/26 SB Meeting

Bend Block Party

This annual block party is Saturday 8/15 at Our Community Park on Main St. in Greensboro Bend. Beginning at 4 p.m.- there will be corn hole games and basketball, you help paint on the bike path mural and sit and visit with your neighbors. Hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream is provided and music by the Birdhouse Band. Grilling starts at 5:30-event is until 7:30.

Town Hall Gym

The fire marshal came Mon.July 20 to inspect the Town Hall and has submitted a report that has approved the gym for a capacity of up to 49 people. Rob Brigham has replaced the light bulbs with LEDs and the Pickleball players are wanting to know when we can use the space.

Swim Program

The program ran from July 20-July 31. There were 101 participants. Thanks to Ila Hunt ,who championed the program.

There is a key issue I want to mention. The swim program needed an indoor place. This was a contractual obligation of our town and as chair of the Rec Committee I was trying to help make sure the town fulfilled it's obligation and there was a lack of support from the town in securing a place.

Not only was it a matter of contractual obligation of our town, it was the matter of the safety of our kids!

During the first week of the swim program the forecast was variable and I was trying to help secure a place for the participants in the case of bad weather.

-Wed.7/22 I emailed the entire SB with a time sensitive Urgent Need Request to use the town hall as an indoor location in case of inclement weather. The contract, our select board signed, states the town is contractually obligated to provide an indoor location in case of inclement weather.

The only response I received was on Thurs. 7/23 I received an email from MacNeil which didn't acknowledge my urgent request. He wrote: The proposal would need to be presented to the SB which has it's next meeting in August.

Not only was my request not acknowledged even though the town is contractually obligated, but there was no acknowledgement that the next SB meeting (which is today) was after the swim program was over.

Over the weekend I appealed to David Kelley, who said where children are involved and it's an emergency we'll work this out. He contacted MacNeil and got the same response of needing to submit a proposal to the SB next meeting.

-On Tues. 7/28 the forecast was possible thunderstorms

-At 9am I went to the Town Clerk office and asked for a key and Kim said she wouldn't give me one and I needed to ask the SB. I said I would fill out a form to be the responsible person and again she said no. I got all the SB phone numbers and left messages and only Mike Metcalf answered and was willing to try and help, but didn't feel he had permission as only being one person on the select board. I talked with Josh and we identified that the town meeting room was available and I could sign it out with the use policy. When I asked to sign the form again Kim got a form and gave me a key.

Why was this situation difficult to resolve and in such a unhelpful manner?

In the case of an emergency, I discovered that the select board, except Mike, was NOT available by phone. Judy emailed me 2 days later to say she had seven grandchildren so not checking messages. I didn't hear from Tim or Ellen. Mike came right to the town hall to try and help. He didn't have a key and had to get one from Kim. During the engineers visit I believe Tim and MacNeil said they didn't have keys to the Town Hall either. Who does have keys and what is the criteria for possessing one? The communication was inadequate and ineffective and complicated.

Our town governance seems paralyzed to make decisions. Everyone wants to pass the responsibility to someone else and not take responsibility. There seems to be an unwillingness to find solutions to problems and make everything so ridiculously complicated. We have a meeting room and a gym that has been okayed for up to 49 people. Whether or not a group from the swim program can enter the Town Hall in the case of inclement weather is not a selectboard decision that needs a proposal when the town has already signed a contract stating it is obligated.

Jennifer Ranz

Chair of the Rec Committee