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## Recreation Committee

*The charter of the Recreation Committee is "To plan and execute programs of recreation and leisure activities for people of all ages in the town." We always welcome suggestions and assistance from the members of the community on how we can better serve the town.*

This year was our first annual Corn hole Tournament, which was a fun event for all ages. Thank you to everyone in the community who entered or donated their boards and bags for us to use. Our official winners were Rick Lee and Mike Quirk!

Our 2017 second annual Berlin Country Run brought out seventy-two 5k runners and twenty-four fun runners. We were able to donate \$1,340.00 of the proceeds to the Berlin Family Food Pantry. This could not have happened without our amazing sponsors: Berlin Auto Service Inc., Berlin General Store & Eatery, Berlin Liquors LLC, Diamond Athletics Turf Inc., J.R. Matthew Inc., Mike Sawyer Contracting Inc., Pine Valley Farms, Rhodes Construction Inc., Rhodes Realty Associates, RJ Marshall and W&A Muldoon. The Berlin Country Run committee would also like to thank the Berlin Police Department for all their support in keeping our runners safe on the roads. We are looking forward to putting together our 3rd annual Berlin Country Run this year!

### South Commons

Recreation continued to contract with a local landscaper to provide a maintenance program on the front field areas. We continue to rotate soccer fields and reseed and aerate areas that need improvement. Due to past dry summers and lack of irrigation, the fields required more maintenance this year and Recreation spent \$10,831.00 to do so. Thank you to Berlin Youth Soccer and Berlin Youth Baseball for contributing to this expense.

The full size soccer field in the back corner of the complex needed extensive work in the spring and was shut down while the area was aerated and reseeded. The Recreation Committee negotiates field usage contracts on a year-to-year basis. We lost outside usage contracts due to the poor conditions and the merging of our usual contract with another entity. We are working hard to get new contracts for the upcoming year. This field also remains available to our town programs during the year. Recreation, Berlin Soccer, and Berlin Baseball continue to work cooperatively on maintenance plans, equipment, and scheduling in order to keep South Commons busy and well organized.

Recreation is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the children's playground and monitor the playground for safety

and upkeep. There are modifications we will be working on in the coming year. We would like to thank the Highway Department for their ongoing assistance with many tasks that are required throughout the year at the South Commons complex.

The Snack Shack continues to run and be successful with Rick and Julie Lee still coordinating, stocking, and maintaining in the spring and fall seasons.

### Town Sports

The following notes pertain to town sports programs currently offered in Berlin:

**Soccer:** Berlin Youth Soccer Association offers Fall and Spring soccer opportunities for all children of Berlin at an affordable cost regardless of prior soccer experience or level of play. Last fall, there were over 120 players who participated in Berlin Youth Soccer. On any given Saturday in the fall, the field was teeming with kids and parents who love the "beautiful game."

Teams are determined by grade and age as follows:

- Pre K and K (U6) co-ed, where they have a 60 to 90 minute session on Saturday split between practice and games. Each session includes a combination of small sided games as well as fun activities emphasizing basic soccer skills.
- Grades 1 and 2, where they typically practice 1 day a week, with a game on Saturday. Currently, we are in a joint program with Clinton Youth Soccer and Boylston Youth Soccer.
- Grade 3/4 and above boys and girls teams. At this level, our teams are part of the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League (NVYSL). Practice is generally held twice a week and away games could be in any town within the league.

We are an organization run by Volunteers, from administration to coaches governed by Massachusetts Youth Soccer and the US Youth Soccer Association. We welcome you to join us in our soccer program for our children of Berlin. You can volunteer during the registration process for your child or you can contact the president. It is not necessary to have a child in the program and soccer knowledge while helpful is not required! On the job training is provided!

Please visit our webpage at <http://www.berlinyouthsoccer.com> for additional information.

**Berlin Youth Basketball:** The Berlin Youth Basketball program continues to grow and be successful in Berlin.

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This year, we had over 100 boys and girls sign up for the program and entered 8 teams in the Nashoba Youth Basketball League for competitive games against Stow, Lancaster, Clinton, Bolton, and Harvard. We continue to offer an instructional first and second grade program, which has many youth volunteers in town co-coaching, and started a new instructional introduction group for kindergartners. Berlin Youth Basketball is proud of its players, coaches, and town recreation, who have shown an extreme loyalty to the program to make it successful and above all, fun for all involved. We send a special thanks to the staff at the Berlin Memorial School for their flexibility with the use of the gym, where we practice and play games every single day, from November through February. This year we were able to donate \$150.00 to the physical education program at Berlin Memorial as a token of our appreciation. We would also like to thank the Town of Berlin Recreation Committee for supporting repairs to the backboards, hoops, and floor maintenance and the Men's Basketball group for contributing money as well. Additionally, we continued our "move up" program allowing kids at the end of the season to practice with the kids and hoop height that they will be playing in the following season. Berlin Youth Basketball also participates in Travel Basketball in grades 5 through 8 with Boylston and West Boylston.

**Adult Basketball:** Recreation currently sponsors Men's Basketball on Monday nights at the BMS gymnasium. Turn out continues to be very good.

**Baseball/Softball:** This is a great youth program that we are very proud of, kids can start as early as 4. The kids learn all the fundamentals and team play that you could ask for in a youth sport. Fielding about 50 of our kids in town and then merging with Boylston/W.Boylston by age 9. This is a great way to get them acclimated to the next step they will take at the High-school level.

Rick Lee, *President*

Jamie McNamara, *Vice-President*

Valerie Muldoon, *Treasurer*

Suzanne Clisham, *Security Officer*

## **Finances**

The Recreation Committee Revolving Account had an opening balance on 7/1/16 of \$29,902.71. During the year we received \$16,096.14 from the usages fees associated with the athletic fields, registration fees from programs and Berlin Home Day. From this account during the year, \$16,311.01 was spent on field and grounds maintenance, paying out Berlin Home Day vendors, and various donations. The 6/30/17 balance was \$29,687.00. Our annual budget from the Town of Berlin was increased to \$4,600.00 which is an increase of \$1,200.00 from the previous year.

**Members:** Julie Lee, Robert MacKay, Tammy Money, Valerie Muldoon, Greg Tremelling