



Mailing: 10 Central Road, Rye, NH 03870
Physical: 55 Recreation Road, Rye, NH 03870
Phone: (603) 964-6281 ∞ Fax: (603) 964-1516

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 2, 2020

Recreation Storage Facility

55 Recreation Road, Rye, NH

6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Gregg Mikolaities, Chairman, Cory Belden, Todd Cronin, Brett Mulvey, Joe Persechino, Georgina Saravia, Todd Cronin, Stephen King by phone, Commissioners, and Lee Arthur, Recreation Director.

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes

Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2020

The Recreation Commissioners reviewed the meeting minutes of September 14, 2020.

Motion was made by Todd Cronin to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2020. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. All in favor. Motion carried. Georgina Saravia abstained.

IV. Correspondence

Financial Reports

Lee Arthur provided the Recreation Commissioners with the financial reports for October. The recreation budget had \$226,253.08 expended (33.51% left); recreation revolving budget \$50,593.93 expended (82.45% left – budget frozen) and patriotic purposes \$3,006.68 expended (71.90% left). It was noted that the over expenditure in the background check line of the recreation budget was due to more volunteer coaches and bills received in 2020 for 2019.

The 2020 Capital Outlay had \$10,000 allocated for the Recreation Buildings and Area Assessment that would answer the question where public restrooms should be located. It was discussed whether to issue an RFP and sign a contract before yearend or request the appropriation again. The expenditure is not from taxation and was to come from the recreation revolving budget. It was determined that it would be requested again as part of the 2021 budget process.

Included in the meeting packet was Cost Center GL Report it showed that the after school program had \$38,977.75 debits, \$61,615.81 credits and has net \$22,638.06; activity registrations had \$8771.75 debits, \$16,945.25 credits and has net \$8,173.50; summertime horizons has \$16,717.00 debits and credits and net \$0 and \$1,675.60 in refunds were applied to participant accounts. This resulted in recreation revolving revenue to date being \$29,135.96 and \$50,593.93 in expenditures. It was discussed that any deficit could come from fund balance. The revolving account is self-funded and was frozen early in the year with the absence of programs. The youth athletics account has a balance of \$96,862.86.

It was further discussed that recreation capital items are being funded from the recreation revolving account (not part of taxation) and that depending on the amount a warrant article maybe required.

The Administrative and Programs Assistant is now working at Town Hall assisting with the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors Office and in the Building Department.

Seacoast Enrichment Association, Inc. dba Rye Soccer Association Extended Field Application

Included in the meeting packet was an updated Recreation Fields Use Application from Seacoast Enrichment, Inc. from November 1-December 15, 2020, 3:00-6:00 p.m., Monday-Friday and 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The Select Board had to approve their prior application because they did not meet the insurance requirements and they only approved use until November 1, 2020. Therefore, the updated application has been forwarded to the Town Administrator to be readdressed.

It was discussed that the fields were played on when the weather was inclement on Saturday, October 31, 2020 and as a result were damaged. Stephen King reported that the fields were in good condition up until Saturday and that he had requested that they evaluate the fields before using them because of the rain received earlier in the week and heavy rain anticipated on Friday. He walked the fields on Sunday, and they were still wet. Shawn Crapo is going to look at fields Tuesday. It was noted that it is difficult to make repairs this time of year and it may have to wait until spring.

The purpose of the field request was discussed, and it was mentioned that all the teams were done playing and that the request was for training, small groups and possible scrimmages. It was noted that the fields have never been used after November 1st before and that further damage could jeopardize spring sports. The availability of other fields they could use was discussed.

Motion was made by Stephen King to close the Recreation Area Fields due to weather and field conditions until they are re-evaluated in the spring. Seconded by Georgina Saravia. Motion carried.

Lee Arthur will notify the Town Administrator that the Recreation Commission has closed the fields. Stephen King indicated that he would contact Leif Honda about the closure and Shawn Crapo regarding the repair.

V. Old Business

Recreation Storage Facility Ribbon Cutting

Lee Arthur indicated that the Town Administrator is checking on the availability of the selectmen for either Monday, November 9 or Tuesday, November 10. Gregg Mikolaities indicated that he wanted to show the Select Board, Budget Committee Members and the public what they received for the \$150,000.

Rye After School Program

Included in the meeting packet was a letter dated September 28, 2020 from Rye Elementary indicating that space for the Rye Recreation After School Program will not be available for the foreseeable future. It was noted that the recreation department spent a significant amount of time preparing the rooms at Rye Elementary with the anticipation of re-opening. Subsequently learning that the program could not re-open, Seacoast Science Center was contact to see if collaboratively a program could be offered to fill the need for working parents.

Two options were proposed the first was that the Town would contract with Seacoast Science Center and pay per participant a set fee per day (like an entrance fee or program fee). They would conduct the in program operation, however Rye Recreation would still be a stakeholder and administer services for the program included but not limited to advertising, billing and accounts receivable, payments to Seacoast Science Center from Town of Rye for contracted services, registration, attendance, safety protocols, correspondence and communication with parents/guardians. The second option was that Rye Recreation would attain information on the Seacoast Science Center After School Program and dissimilate it to its participants and not be involved. With Rye Recreations involvement the Seacoast Science Center wanted to charge \$25 a day and without \$20 a day. After consulting with some parents, it was determined that \$16.50 (Rye Recreations rate) to \$25 a day was cost prohibitive and the second option was pursued. The Seacoast Science Center is now offering "Nature Detectives After School Program". The school is responsible for transporting students after school. The bus is not allowed to drop off at the door of the Seacoast Science Center. However, it can drop off at the road and staff can receive participants there.

The possibility of offering Rye Recreation Basketball after the holidays was discussed. It was noted that Rye Junior High School have indicated that they will not be offering a basketball program. Portsmouth Recreation is offering a basketball program with mask and other for-profit organizations. The type of program was discussed, including if there was a way to adapt the program, like what was accomplished with Rye Recreation Soccer. Brett Mulvey mentioned playing 3 on 3 and will investigate other possibilities. It was left that Rye Recreation would reach out to the school and see if it is a possibility even though the junior high is not having a program this year.

Staffing Update

It was mentioned again that the Administrative and Programs Assistant is now working at Town Hall assisting with the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors Office and in the Building Department.

VI. New Business

Recreation Budget

Included in the meeting packet was the Rye Recreation Budget Narrative. The recreation budget increase is less than 1% and the recreation revolving budget decrease is over 13%. The department has been forced to adapt and future programing will include small ratios and larger space requirements. Concerns were expressed as to the ability to utilize outside contractors and if they would be able to meet the Town of Ryes insurance requirements and that we are in uncharted waters. It was discussed that \$10,000 would need to be added to capital outlay. The proposed patriotic purposes budget represented a 93% increase due to an increase of \$10,000 to the July 4th Celebration budget. Jack Toby (volunteer) retired and a quote from JIP Pyrotechnics was \$10,000 minimum. They provide a class B show and that would pose other issues as more of Parsons Field would need to be used, other quotes will be solicited.

Rye Next Door (Social Media Post)

It was discussed that there was a social media post that suggested that Rye Little League had damaged playground equipment and later was retracted/clarified. The playground has been closed since March because of COVID. During that time equipment was broken and needs to be repaired/replaced before it can be reopened. Cameras were placed at the site as a deterrent. It was explained that the equipment may not be easily fixed and an option maybe to remove it until a repair or replacement can be made. Once repaired it will be reopened under the guidance of the EMD.

Recreation Area Master Plan Update

The Recreation Area Master Plan was discussed and if there needed to be more surveying. It was mentioned that the area had been surveyed up to the tree line. It was discussed creating a subcommittee and evaluating what has been completed and what needs to be completed. The mapping is to be pulled together for the next meeting, so it can be reviewed. It was noted that the mapping doesn't show the Multi-purpose Storage Facility, however the corners were surveyed for the build.

Program Updates

It was discussed that fall soccer went very well and that the focus moving forward should be on outdoor activities like ski (self-drive).

VII. Adjournment

It was discussed that the next meeting would be December 7, 2020.

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Seconded by Georgina Saravia. Motion carried.

**These are draft minutes. Please refer to the minutes of the next meeting for approvals/corrections.*