



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
Tuesday, January 9, 2018
Rye Recreation Office
55 Recreation Road, Rye, NH
6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Gregg Mikolaities, Chairman, Stephen King, Brett Mulvey, Joe Persechino, Todd Cronin, Commissioners, and Lee Arthur, Recreation Director.

A. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

B. Roll Call

C. Approval of Minutes

- **Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2017.**

The meeting minutes of December 4, 2017 were reviewed.

Motion was made by Stephen King to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2017. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

D. Correspondence

- **Financial Reports**

The financial reports for December 2017 were reviewed. Lee Arthur indicated that they did not reflect the year as a whole as 2017 invoices are still being received and funds were also encumbered. At the end of December the Recreation General Fund Budget had 5.4%, Recreation Revolving Fund Budget 36.17% and Patriotic Purposes Budget 4.05% remaining. Gregg Mikolaities questioned why the salaries and retirement lines were over expended. Lee Arthur indicated that they should not be and would check with the Finance Director. She pointed out that it looked like funds were taken from the rec - salaries line instead of the rec – vacation buy back line. It was also pointed out that the last day in the pay period was December 31, 2017; however, individuals were paid on January 4, 2018.

Other

Rye Budget Committee January 11, 2018 Meeting and Public Hearing Agenda

Included in the meeting packet was the Rye Budget Committee January 11, 2018 Meeting and Public Hearing Agenda. It was noted that the town wide budget and warrant articles would be up for discussion. Lee Arthur indicated that she would attend.

Correspondence from Priscilla Jenness regarding Annual Reports for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Included in the meeting packet was a request from Priscilla Jenness to submit Rye Recreation's Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2017 by no later than Friday January 19, 2018.

York Studies Recreational Needs Article by Deborah McDermott

Included in the meeting packet was an article by Deborah McDermott that was published in the Portsmouth Herald "York Studies Recreational Needs". Gregg Mikolaities shared the article and it was discussed that there were many similarities between York and Rye.

E. Old Business

- **2018 Recreation Warrant Article**

A final copy of the 2018 Recreation Warrant Article was included in the meeting packet. Brett Mulvey and Lee Arthur presented the article to the Budget Committee and were questioned about the square footage. Lee Arthur pointed out that she was unable to locate the plan that was developed prior to 2000; however, has reached out to Debra Page, the plans architect, and is waiting for a response. It was determined that a plan needs to be available for the Deliberative Session and Joe Persechino would assist with the process. The size of the multi-purpose recreation storage facility was discussed and thought to be 1000-1200 square feet. The lower level would be approximately half of the upper level as it would be built into a natural slope. The cost includes site work and utilities. Gregg Mikolaities pointed out that the Recreation Facilities Space Needs Committee identified the need and the selectmen are aware.

- **Recreation Commission Position**

Georgina Gsaravia and Carrie Barron previously expressed an interest in serving on the Recreation Commission. Lee Arthur indicated that she invited each of them to the meeting; however, neither was in attendance. The vacancy was advertised in the newsletter and on the Town of Rye Website. It was discussed notifying Beverly Levesque of the vacancy as she served on the Recreation Facilities Space Needs Committee and did a great job. It was noted that the Non-public Session on the agenda was no longer needed.

- **Other**

Gregg Mikolaities indicated that he had a few items he wanted to discuss. He pointed out that samples of the Ralph Morang Multi-purpose Field soil need to be taken. It was discussed that Rye Recreation used to consult with turf specialist John Roberts, UNH Associate Professor; however, he retired a couple years ago. Lee Arthur indicated she had spoken to Shawn Crapo about taking samples and would talk to him again. It was

noted that UNH used to bring a class to the Recreation Area.

Gregg Mikolaities pointed out that during the budget process Craig Musselman, Selectman, suggested Recreation Area mowing be combined with the town wide mowing RFP in order to obtain a better price and it is important to know what Rye Little League will be maintaining. Todd Cronin mentioned that Rye Little League recently met and that he thought they wanted to maintain the Flash Jenness Memorial Field 100% from the beginning to end of the baseball season and into fall as well. Gregg Mikolaities discussed the mowing history. Last year the Flash Jenness Memorial Little League Field was not maintained after the Little League Season. It was mentioned that last year was an aberration. The use of the Ralph Morang Multi-purpose Field was discussed. It was pointed out that different areas outside the baseball diamond were used for t-ball and may need to be cut more than once a week and that rain can upset the mowing schedule. Gregg Mikolaities reinforced the need to know the mowing needs of Little League. Todd Cronin agreed to find out what are the mowing needs of Little League.

Gregg Mikolaities asked for an update on the Guard Rail and Fence Project. Lee Arthur indicated that the fence posts have been installed, however, the project has been delayed due to the weather and the funds were encumbered.

Lee Arthur was directed to invite Rye Soccer Association, Rye Little League and Seacoast Lacrosse to the Recreation Commission Meeting in February. It was noted that groups have requested the use of the Soccer Snack Shack and that when designing the new facility it should have a separate door to the concession area and accommodate shared space.

Sponsorship and signage at the Recreation Area was discussed. Rye Little League is the only organization accepting sponsorship for displaying signs at the area. It was noted that they receive a significant amount of funds from sponsorship; however, in turn spend a significant amount of funds maintaining the Flash Jenness Memorial Field and lower baseball diamond. It was noted that the signs were not uniform and that was because there are different levels of sponsorship, including multi-year agreements. The Rye Soccer Association gives Rye Recreation \$500 for field usage. Seacoast Lacrosse gives Rye Recreation \$500, pays for their own paint and lines the fields. Each organization contributes differently. It was brought up that not only can the organizations benefit from advertising funds but also could Rye Recreation. Lee Arthur pointed out that the new fence was not meant to be a new marketing area. Gregg Mikolaities mentioned that the Recreation Commission has a responsibility to monitor the Recreation Area. It was identified that a policy depicting the size, location and duration a sign/banner is displayed needs to be established and attached to the Recreation Area Field Use Forms.

F. New Business

- **Recreation Area Incident**

It was discussed that in December, on a Saturday morning, a dog was fatally shot at the Recreation Area Access point to the Town forest. A woman was entering the woods with an Alaskan malamute and a coonhound and the Alaskan malamute picked up one of two

Pomeranians that a resident was walking. The resident had a license to carry a gun and fatally shot the malamute. The resident is currently charged with discharging the gun in the proximity of others. There was a discussion about the escalation of activity in the Town Forest regarding hunting, trapping, and dog walking. It was noted that a leash law is being proposed by the Kevin Walsh, Rye Chief of Police.

There was also a discussion on where you can carry a gun, proximity to schools and recreation area. Lee Arthur was directed to ask Kevin Walsh, Rye Chief of Police, about the law.

- **Program Updates**

The Rye Recreation Ski and Snowboard Program currently has 41 registrants; last year there was 29.

- **Other**

The following action items were reviewed:

- Todd Cronin would find out what are the mowing needs of Little League.
- Lee Arthur would invite Rye Soccer Association, Rye Little League and Seacoast Lacrosse to the next Recreation Commission Meeting.
- Lee Arthur will draft a field signage policy.
- Lee Arthur will ask Kevin Walsh, Rye Chief of Police, about the law on where you can carry.
- Lee Arthur will check with UNH and Shawn Crapo regarding turf evaluation.

The next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be Monday, February 12, 2018 at the Recreation Office.

G. Adjournment

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.