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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 5, 2017

Recreation Office, 55 Recreation Road, Rye, NH
6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Cory Belden, Maggie Duffy-Durkin, Gregg Mikolaities, Brett Mulvey, Joe Persechino, Judy Scott, 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 April 12, 2017.
The meeting minutes of April 12, 2017 were reviewed.

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2017 as presented. Seconded by Judy Scott. Motion carried. Maggie Duffy-Durkin and Joe Persechino abstained.

D. Correspondence

• **Financial Reports**

The financial reports for May, 2017 were reviewed. At the end of May the Recreation General Fund Budget had 66.44% remaining, the Recreation Revolving Fund Budget had 73.09% remaining and the Patriotic Purposes Budget had 61.64% remaining. The current year to date Recreation Revolving Fund Revenue is \$64,792.20 and the fund balance is \$368,445.99. It was noted that the fund has been utilized for capital items. The Youth Athletics Account balance was unavailable. However, it was estimated to have a balance of approximately \$70,000. This account is primarily used for donations. Rye Recreation is responsible for five areas. The Recreation Budget, the appropriation needs to be approved annually and the funds are from taxation; the Recreation Revolving Budget, the appropriation needs to be approved annually, however the funds are self-generated and do not come from taxation; the Patriotic Purpose Budget, the appropriation needs to be approved annually and the funds are from taxation; the Youth Athletics Account the funds are from donations and require authorization to expend; and the Recreation Building Capital Reserve Fund requires the Selectmen's authorization to expend.

There was a discussion regarding the declining school population and the space opportunities that could become available. It was noted that the Recreation Area and surrounding structures need to be improved as they have no longer become temporary.

- **Other**

Tara Barker has requested items for an online auction in support of the Gagallis family of Rye. One of their children has been diagnosed with a serious medical condition that will require significant resources.

Motion was made by Maggie Duffy-Durkin to donate two separate weeks of Summertime Horyezons Day Camp to the online auction in support of the Gagallis family. Seconded by Cory Belden. Motion carried.

E. Old Business

- **Recreation Commission Positions**

Lee Arthur reported that she left a message for Steve McManus, requesting a letter from him expressing his interest in serving as a Recreation Commissioner as Brett Mulvey had noted he was interested. Stephen King has indicated that he is interested in serving on the Recreation Commission again and has forwarded a letter of interest. Stacey Brooks term has expired. She has expressed verbally that she does not wish to renew her term, however has not expressed her wishes in writing as required by the Board of Selectmen.

The 2017 Recreation Commission Meeting Dates were discussed and the following was determined:

July 10, 2017 (Recreation Office), August 7, 2017 (Town Hall Court Room), September 18, 2017 (Town Hall Court Room), October 2, 2017, (Town Hall Court Room), November 6, 2017, (Town Hall Court Room), and December 4, 2017, (Town Hall Court Room).

- **Recreation Area Improvements**

Lee Arthur pointed out that she had asked the Public Works Director if he could remove the fence around the pond. He had agreed as well as offered to install a temporary orange fence in its place. Gregg Mikolaities mentioned that he would touch base with Dennis McCarthy and also find out how far the new fence should be from the road.

It was suggested demoing the white sheds at the rear of the soccer snack shack and replacing them with one or two 20ft containers at a cost of \$75 month. Gregg Mikolaities indicated that he would ask Dennis McCarthy if the Public Works Department could conduct the work. It was also discussed that a handy man is needed for basic building repairs at the Recreation Area. Greg Mikolaities suggested getting containers that open at both ends. He mentioned that the modular was installed in 2004 and that it was a used classroom. The Recreation Commission agreed that the approach moving forward should be to pursue a garage for the area.

The Ralph Morang Field Drainage Project was discussed. Cory Belden mentioned that there were no updates and that he would get together with Lee Arthur.

F. New Business

- **Introduction of Ryan Slaven, Intern**

Lee Arthur introduced Ryan Slaven. He is a counselor in the Afterschool Program and just graduated from the University of New Hampshire, Recreation Management and Policy Program. He has experience working with children and worked last summer with the Boston Red Sox in their Fan Entertainment Department. He wanted to learn more about municipal recreation and is completing his internship with Rye Recreation. He is from Ipswich, Massachusetts.

- **Recreation Area Background**

Gregg Mikolaities indicated that he wanted to provide the Recreation Commissioners with information on the history of the Recreation Area. He mentioned that he has been involved with the Recreation since 1999 and that Lee Arthur was employed in 2000. He noted that the Recreation House was renovated in 2001, Ralph Morang Multi-purpose Field reconstructed in 2003, modular installed in 2004, Playground installation completed in 2010, new septic system installed in 2012, and overflow parking lot constructed in 2013.

Included in the meeting packet was the State Statue Chapter 35-B Public Recreation and Parks that touched on the authority and powers of the Recreation Commission. In addition, the 1965 Warrant Article that established the Recreation Area; the location, property card and deed to the outer marker parcel; recreation area time line 1963-2016; Agreement between Rye Recreation Commission and Rye Town Forest Citizens Advisory Committee; sketch of Town owned lands 4/15/80; Rye Recreation Fields Tax Map 1/8/99; sketch plan Recreation Road 12/1/99; Preliminary Recreation Master Plan 8/26/98; Preliminary Recreation Master Plan 12/23/97; Recreational Field Improvements Exiting Conditions 11/2000; Recreational Field Improvements Grading and Drainage Plan 11/2000; Recreational Field Improvements Utilities Plan 11/2000; and the Town of Rye Recreation Area Septic Plan 11/2010.

There was a discussion regarding the Town Forest Agreement and the area placed in easement. It was noted that the Selectmen have recently designated the outer marker parcel as a park and the area was identified. Gregg Mikolaities explained that the overflow parking lot was positioned on an angle because there were only so many trees that were able to be cut, the same occurred with the installation of the modular.

It was noted that a new plan with the existing conditions needs to be developed. The Recreational Field Improvements Utilities Plan 11/2000; and the Town of Rye Recreation Area Septic Plan 11/2010 were reviewed.

- **Capital Improvement Projects for 2018-2023**

Included in the meeting packet was a request from the Town of Rye CIP Committee for Rye Recreations Capital Improvement Projects for 2018-2023 as well as a copy of last year's submission. Last year's projects included a Community Center and Tennis Courts.

It was discussed that the tennis program is operating well and uses the New Castle

Facility and that there has not been an outcry from the public for community courts as in the past. There was an agreement that both projects should not be resubmitted. It was discussed that the priority needs to be on appropriate and enough storage for Rye Recreation at the Recreation Area as well as improving the existing temporary structures that have become permanent.

It was determined that one project for the 2018-2023 CIP would be building a storage facility (garage) that would include a canteen, possibly two levels. It was discussed that \$150,000 should be allocated. Another project is the addition of new community bathrooms, renovating the current washrooms and adding storage to the Recreation House. It was discussed that \$50,000 should be allocated.

- **Program Updates**

The Memorial Day Ceremony went very well and preparations are underway for the July 4th Celebration. This year there will be no bounce house as carnival games will take its place due to insurance concerns. In addition the band has been changed. The Tetra Brazil Soccer Camp week was changed from last year to the first week when school gets out and as a result we have experienced low registrations. It was noted that the PTA operates summer camps that week. Included in the meeting packet was the May and June After School Program Newsletter and Memorial Day Program. Lee Arthur mentioned that she may contact Jim Katkin to discuss the installation of a bathroom on the lower level of the school, with the intention that Rye Recreation would absorb the cost.

Judy Scott and Gregg Mikolaities asked if Rye Little League was still interested in pursuing a Junior High Field. Lee Arthur indicated that she has heard no more regarding the issue.

G. Adjournment

*Motion was made by Maggie Duffy-Durkin to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.
Seconded by Judy Scott. Motion carried.*