



**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, August 6, 2018**

**Rye Town Hall**

**10 Central Road, Rye, NH**

**6:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Gregg Mikolaities, Chairman, Cory Belden, Todd Cronin, Stephen King, Brett Mulvey arrived at 6:13 p.m., Joe Persechino, Georgina Saravia left at 7:03 p.m., Commissioners, and Lee Arthur, Recreation Director.

**Guest:** Daniel Hackett, Rye Resident

**A. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**C. Approval of Minutes**

- **Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes of July 2, 2018.**

The meeting minutes of July 2, 2018 were reviewed.

*Motion was made by Joe Persechino to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of July 2, 2018. Seconded by Todd Cronin. Georgina Saravia and Cory Belden abstained. Motion carried.*

**D. Correspondence**

- **Financial Reports**

The financial reports for July 2018 were reviewed. The vehicle fuel line was a little over budget as the Animal Control Officer was using the vehicle. She presented the fuel consumption report. At the end of July the Recreation General Fund Budget had expended \$138,862.15 and had 50.66% remaining; Recreation Revolving Fund Budget had expended \$104,805.10 and had 57.97% remaining; Patriotic Purposes Budget had expended \$7,578.55 and had 29.17% remaining. Gregg Mikolaities pointed out that the recreation revolving facilities line had only .38% left. Lee Arthur indicated that the line item will be over budget, because in 2017 the School District was paid \$1,500 per the MOU and sent the check back and requested that it be paid directly to one of their employees. She explained that the Town was unable to pay an employee directly and in 2018 it was reissued again to the School District.

*Brett Mulvey arrived.*

It was discussed that more funds should be budgeted for facilities and a recreation facilities line item should be added to the 2019 Budget.

Gregg Mikolaities asked who was cleaning the recreation area and facilities including bathrooms. Lee Arthur indicated the staff. The role of the new buildings and grounds position was discussed. It was noted that the new staff member did fix the stairs to the scorer's booth and identified other areas of repair. Gregg Mikolaities asked if he could pick-up the trash and clean the bathrooms. It was discussed that the commissioners thought that the person was to assist with cleaning and shoveling. Lee Arthur noted that she has not viewed the job description and will ask Dennis McCarthy. Todd Cronin asked what was repaired on the scorer's booth and what else needed to be fixed. It was noted that the stairs were braced and underneath the scorer's booth the electrical in the ceiling needed to be fixed. He asked if the Town was responsible for the upkeep of the building. Lee Arthur indicated not necessarily; however, the liability falls on the town.

- **Other**

Included in the meeting packet was a flyer from the Rye Historical Society "Odiorne 1623". They are preparing for Rye's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and have listed specific topics of interest to celebrate. Lee Arthur mentioned that one topic was sport and recreation. She attended a meeting and pointed out that they are just getting started regarding the planning process.

## **E. Old Business**

- **Space Use Agreement 2018-2019**

The 2018-2019 After School Program has 48 participants from 40 different families signed-up. The current number of students on the waiting list is: Monday 11, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 12, Thursday 9, and Friday 9. That is 16 participants from 12 different families.

Daniel Hackett indicated that his child is registered in the program two days a week; however, is also on the waiting list for additional days and that it is a hardship. He watched the live stream of the May and June School Board Meeting and is willing to approach the School Board. He mentioned the possibility of relocating the teacher that is currently in the shared space, however, senses a resistance. His observation is that there was no effort to look closely at the space or a solution. Joe Persechino noted that every year the Recreation Commission wonders how much space will be available for the program and that the After School Program is not a priority of the School Board. The needs of the school system regarding enrollment, trends and consolidating the buildings has been discussed publicly and housing the after school program could be a solution to preserving the existing space.

Gregg Mikolaities pointed out that there is a letter in the meeting packet to the Board of Selectmen from August, 2017 and a draft letter from August, 2018 regarding the same issue, lack of program space. This is a reoccurring issue that has been identified. There was a warrant presented to the tax payers for \$40,000 towards the planning of a community centre and it was voted down. The feedback received was that there is plenty

of room in the schools. The School Use Committee identified that the schools were not suited to house Town Hall but were suitable for Rye Recreation. However, there is less students in the school and no action to date. Another letter will be sent to the Board of Selectmen again notifying them of the situation and requesting their assistance.

Daniel Hackett asked if the program was held at the Junior High School would the School District be responsible to bus participants to that location. It was noted yes. Lee Arthur expressed the need to better educate the school board and administration on the benefits of an after school program and the direct correlation to educating the whole child. Research has proven to show that after school programs assist students to excel in school and augment the education system. Cory Belden noted that the perception is that the focus is on what happens between 8:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. only.

Daniel Hackett mentioned that the School Board has indicated that the space provided has a max capacity is 50. It was pointed out that one dedicated room can accommodate 25 students and a shared space 15. Therefore, the space provided accommodates 40 students. The school board is not responsible for determining the space required to operate the program as the Recreation Commission is not responsible for determining how many students can be placed in the classroom during the day. Currently there is no classroom that has 25 students during the school day.

Gregg Mikolaities requested that the Recreation Commissions review the letter he drafted to the Selectmen and provide comments. The letter would be updated to indicate the number of families and participants that are not being served. Todd Cronin suggested identifying those families on the waiting list by reading them off at the meeting. It was noted that the families on the waiting list should be contacted prior to the Selectmen's Meeting and see if they would allow their name to be read and if they want to attend. There was a discussion regarding the numbers and request for clarification. It was discussed that a letter was sent to waiting list participants that the program was full on June 14, 2018.

The Recreation Commissioners were asked to review information from Kelley Gallant, Programs Supervisor explaining the space restraints and pictures showing the shared space from last year with the exits blocked, tools left in the room, creating a safety concern.

- **Multi-Purpose Recreation Storage Facility & Recreation Area New Public Restrooms**

Included in the meeting packet was the completed field topographic survey by James Vera and Associates. Gregg Mikolaities indicated that he would draw a site plan for the September Meeting and reach out to Joe Tucker, a local builder, to see if he could attend. It was discussed that the first choice for the meeting would be September 4, 2018 and second September 5, 2018.

- **Message Board**

Skip Chase of the Daniel Webster Boy Scout Council suggested that a letter be sent to him indicating the scope of the proposed Eagle Scout Project (Message Board) and he would distribute it to all of the troops. At the last meeting there were questions regarding

the bike station and rack at the library and the book exchange house. The bike station manufacture is Dero and it was provided by the Friends of the Library, however they may have had it donated by a local bike shop. The cost of the station is \$1,100 and the minimum online order is 3. Brett Mulvey mentioned he would contact a couple bike shops regarding a donation. The book exchange house was built by a friend of Summer Sessions.

- **Recreation Area and Firearms**

Included in the meeting packet was an e-mail from Chief Kevin Walsh indicating that he needs more time, in responding to questions regarding guns at the Recreation area.

- **CIP**

Kerry Roman had requested CIP Information and was forwarded the correspondence requesting Ned Paul to contact Gregg Mikolaities as well as the minutes of the Recreation Commission Meeting indicating that there is no CIP submission/request for the 2019-2024 CIP.

## **F. New Business**

- **Program Updates**

The number of participants in the Summertime Horyezons Camp has continued to decline over the past two years. Program evaluations “What Do You Think?” were sent out for all programs offered over the summer. This week the Baseball Camp and Lego Camps are all almost full. It was discussed if the Summertime Horyezons Camp was held at the elementary school in the after school room whether there would be more participation. It was noted that there is no air conditioning at the school and that the Recreation House is air conditioned. In addition, participants that do attend the summer camp have also participated in other sport camps at the same location.

*Georgina Saravia left at 7:03 p.m.*

Rye Congregational Church has not responded to the request to utilize their third floor for a youth centre/middle school program. The second and third floor space at the church has potential to accommodate the after school program, a youth centre and over 55 drop-in program. Gregg Mikolaities will contact Mel Low who is on the Rye Congregational Churches Finance Committee to discuss the potential for use. The space has its own entrance and could be separately secured and potential leased. Brett Mulvey pointed out that the Learning Skills Academy at Breakfast Hill may also have space available.

Brett Mulvey mentioned having a beach camp (bringing the participants to the beach each day) and also renting a large tent placed at the Recreation Area for camp. It was suggested buying or renting a bus from other local agencies (Hampton, North Hampton, Portsmouth, and Learning Skills Academy etc.). There was a discussion on utilizing the school’s after hours and on Sunday and providing a block of gymnasium time for the local sport organizations. It was noted that Adult Basketball is held on Sunday and the school requires that a custodian be present.

Brett Mulvey suggested teaming up with another town (Greenland) in offering the basket ball program for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and dividing the teams by gender to enhance the

program. It was noted that basketball participation is low due to a conflict with the ski season.

**G. Adjournment**

*Motion was made by Cory Belden to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.*