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**RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, September 18, 2017**

**Rye Town Hall Court Room**

**10 Central Road, Rye, NH**

**6:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Gregg Mikolaities, Chairman, Cory Belden, Brett Mulvey, Joe Persechino, Commissioners, and Lee Arthur, Recreation Director.

**Guest:** Todd Cronin and Stephen King.

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

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

**B. Roll Call**

**C. Approval of Minutes**

- **Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2017.**

The meeting minutes of August 7, 2017 were reviewed.

*Motion was made by Cory Belden to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2017 as presented. Seconded by Joe Persechino. Motion carried. Gregg Mikolaities abstained.*

**D. Correspondence**

- **Financial Reports**

The financial reports for August, 2017 were reviewed. At the end of July the Recreation General Fund Budget had 40.30% remaining. It was noted that the Rec – Wages line item was over by \$779.95 and that accounted for the summer intern. However, it needs to be looked at because the overage could be because of the After School Program and a journal entry may be needed. It was discussed that funds have been allocated under Rec – Equipment Purchases for an AV Projector. Gregg Mikolaities asked why there was 96% left under Rec – Back-ground Checks, 100 % left under the Rec - Software Licensing Fee, and 76.09% left under Rec- Mowing. Lee Arthur noted 42 background checks were recently completed and that the payable had not been processed when the report was generated. The software licensing fee has not been paid as the software has

not been implemented and assistance is needed by the company. The mowing contractor has not invoiced.

The Recreation Revolving Fund Budget had 55.27% remaining. It was noted that the Afterschool Program had to limit the number of participants because of the lack of adequate space, therefore revenue and expenditures will be decreased. The Patriotic Purposes Budget had 37.88% remaining.

Joe Persechino asked what was included in the contracted services budget line. It was explained that the contracted employees (yoga etc.), Over 55 meal contractor, Challenger Sport, McIntyre Ski School Bus expenses are all taken from that budget line.

- **Letter to Lee Arthur from Amy and Steven Borne regarding the Rye Recreation Afterschool Program**

Lee Arthur noted that she recently received a nice letter from Amy and Steven Borne indicating their appreciation for the After School Program and staff and wanted to share it with the Recreation Commission. The Recreation Commissioners reviewed the letter.

The Recreation Commission took the Recreation Commissions Position agenda item under Old Business out of order to accommodate the guest present.

- **Recreation Commission Positions**

Gregg Mikolaities pointed out that there is one open position on the Recreation Commission and four people (Stephen King, Todd Cronin, Georgina Saravia and Carrie Barron) had expressed interest in filling the position. All four were invited to attend the meeting and to introduce themselves; Stephen King and Todd Cronin were present. Georgina Saravia indicated in an e-mail if other individuals were interested she would be happy to get to know Rye better and let someone else do it for now.

Gregg Mikolaities asked both candidates to introduce themselves. Stephen King indicated that he has lived in Rye for 25 years and has three children and was previously on the Recreation Commission. He is getting ready to retire would like to serve on the commission again as he enjoyed the work. He was on the Rye Little League board for 6 years and coached for 8 years; was the president of Rye Travel Soccer for 3 years and served on the board for 14 years. He instituted the positive coaching alliance.

Todd Cronin indicated that he has lived in Rye for 6 years and has two children who have participated in Rye Recreation Soccer, After School Program and summer program. He has been on the Rye Little League board for the past 5 years and oversees all the coaches, he has also coached. He serves on the administrative team for Dover Youth Hockey and New Hampshire East Hockey. His wife is very active on Town of Rye Committees and politics. He works in Portland, Maine in Hospital Administration.

Gregg Mikolaities thanked the participants for their interest in serving on the commission. It was discussed that the commission had looked into having alternates, however, RSA 35-B:4 does not provide for them.

## **Other**

- **Policy Concerning the Seal of the Town of Rye**

Included in the meeting packet for information purposes was the Policy Concerning the Seal of the Town of Rye. It was noted that Rye Recreation does not utilize the Town Seal much as it has its own logo. Gregg Mikolaities asked if Rye Recreation is supposed to use it more, Lee Arthur replied no. It was discussed that the concern is misuse by non-town entities. Brett Mulvey indicated that he thought that the seal was used in relationship to a fundraiser and that may have prompted the policy.

Included in the meeting packet was the Beach Committee Meeting Agenda for August 29, 2017. Item 6 was “Member discussion, warrant article to put the management of the beach under the Rye Recreation Department.” Lee Arthur noted that she was forwarded the agenda from the Board of Selectman’s Administrative Assistant but not requested to attend the meeting. It was noted that the Fire Department is currently responsible for the management of the beaches. Years ago the beach issues were under the Recreation Commission and then a Beach Commission was developed. The Beach Commission was recently dissolved and in its place the selectmen developed a Beach Committee. It was pointed out that a lot of the items on the agenda were police related. Lee Arthur said that she would forward the Beach Committee Minutes to the commissioners when they become available.

Included in the meeting packet was a Rye Town Forest Trails Map distributed by Kim Reed developed by the Rockingham Planning Commission.

## **Old Business**

- **Rye After School Program Space**

Gregg Mikolaities, Lee Arthur, Salvatore Petralia, and Suzanne Lull met and review the After School Program space changes. The After School Program was limited to 40 participants each day. Seven children were originally placed on a waiting list because appropriate space is not available to provide unlimited access. Gregg Mikolaities mentioned that the situation is not ideal, but there are no other alternatives short of transporting children to the Recreation Area. He explained that what gets lost in conversion is that designated space is different than space. Lee Arthur noted that the After School Program is full Monday through Thursday with 3 spots open on Friday. Brett Mulvey asked if it was easier to staff and Lee Arthur replied yes, however currently they are short staff on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- **School Use Feasibility Committee Update**

Gregg Mikolaities noted that the schools are not at 100% capacity. He mentioned that individuals are beginning to understand that the children Rye Recreation serves are the same children that attend school during the day. He believes that there will be a positive outcome for Rye Recreation in regards to space at the schools. The committee toured Rye Junior High and it was noted that there is approximately 2,500 square feet under the gymnasium that is currently being used for storage that could be usable space. Members

of the committee are receptive to the school being utilized for the after school program and adult programming. It was discussed that there will be a Public Forum in October and that the date is to be determined.

Corey Belden asked if a decision should be made prior to January on whether to have the 2018-19 After School Program and if a two or three year lease should be pursued. Lee Arthur mentioned that one recommendation of the Rye Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment Committee was that the selectmen negotiate a multiyear agreement with the School District for the use of the elementary school for the After School Program and basketball program. It was discussed that without secure space Rye Recreation should not take registrations.

It was discussed that Rye Recreation middle school programming is limited. Gregg Mikolaities indicated that progress is being made, in that individuals are becoming more aware of the space issues facing Rye Recreation. Todd Cronin pointed out that the school board is concerned with the declining school population and census. He noted that services like the after school program assist with growth and that most families can't live in Rye without both parents working.

Lee Arthur pointed out that the largest issue facing Rye Recreation is that it has no program space. If space can't be secured the program could possibly be transitioned to a third party. The After School Program takes up a significant amount of Rye Recreation staff's time not just in program but administration, preparation, planning etc. It is similar to operating a full-time child care center. The residents of Rye made the decision to have the Town take over the after school program from a third party and that the program is very valuable to the community. It was discussed that the Recreation Commission needs to work with the School Board before taking any registrations for the following school year.

Brett Mulvey asked if there was a selectman on the School Use Feasibility Committee. Gregg Mikolaities said yes, Craig Musselman.

- **2018 Recreation Budget**

Lee Arthur indicated that the 2018 Recreation Budget will include:

A warrant article for \$150,000 to construct a climate controlled storage facility, the proposed funding source would be general fund (tax rate); A warrant article or capital item for \$50,000 to construct new public restrooms, the proposed funding source would be the building reserve and youth athletics fund; and \$10,000 to develop a Recreation Area Land Use Master Plan including survey (existing conditions), the proposed funding source would be the revolving fund.

**Other**

Gregg Mikolaities asked about the field drainage and guard rail project. It was mentioned that the request for proposals were being developed. It was noted that the estimate to pave Recreation Road from the gate to the Recreation House was \$10,000. Gregg Mikolaities indicated that he will write a letter to the Board of Selectman requesting that

be included in the Town road paving budget.

**E. New Business**

- **Program Updates**

Joe Persechino mentioned that more people are interested in flag football since the commission last discussed the topic. Steven Borne had provided information on Portsmouth's program that was included in the Recreation Commission Meeting packets last month. There was a discussion on the number of possible participants and whether there were enough youth in Rye. It was decided to poll the community and also see if they are interested just a Rye league or a Rye team that may play in other communities.

**F. Roll Call**

- In attendance: Cory Belden, Gregg Mikolaities, Brett Mulvey and Joe Persechino

**G. Non-public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation**

*Motion to enter Non-public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (c) was made by Joe Persechino. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Roll call vote: Cory Belden, Yes; Gregg Mikolaities, Yes; Brett Mulvey, Yes; and Joe Persechino, Yes. Motion carried.*

Entered Non-public Session at 7:08 p.m.

**H. Reconvene Public Session**

The Recreation Commission reconvened the public session at 7:22 p.m.

*Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to publicly disclose the non-public meeting minutes. Seconded by Joe Persechino. Roll call vote: Cory Belden, Yes; Gregg Mikolaities, Yes; Brett Mulvey, Yes; and Joe Persechino, Yes. Motion carried.*

*Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to have Lee Arthur prepare a letter to the Board of Selectmen notifying them that the Recreation Commission recommends that Stephen King be appointed to the Recreation Commission vacancy. Seconded by Joe Persechino. Motion carried.*

Lee Arthur was directed to send a letter to Todd Cronin thanking him for his interest and encouraging him to stay interested as well as a letter to Georgina Saravia and Carrie Barron.

**I. Adjournment**

*Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Seconded by Cory Belden. Motion carried.*