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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 12, 2018
Rye Recreation Office
55 Recreation Road, Rye, NH
6:00 p.m.

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

Guest: John Gray and Joe Wilson, Rye Soccer Association; Ray Hindle, Rye Little League; Mike MacDonald, Seacoast Lacrosse and Shawn Crapo, Seaside Landscaping (arrived at 6:55 p.m.).

A. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Everyone present was in agreement to move New Business: Rye Recreation Field Use Representatives (Rye Soccer Association, Rye Little League, and Seacoast Lacrosse) to the top of the agenda.

B. Roll Call

C. New Business

- **Rye Recreation Field Use Representatives (Rye Soccer Association, Rye Little League, and Seacoast Lacrosse)**

Gregg Mikolaities welcomed the representatives from Rye Soccer Association, Rye Little League, and Seacoast Lacrosse to the meeting. He noted that the Recreation Commission wants to meet with all the organizations that utilize the fields as a group once a year. He pointed out that the biggest misnomer is that Little League owns the baseball fields. He explained that the Recreation Commission is responsible for the Recreation Area and that the Town owns the property. Although there has always been the understanding that Rye Little League spends a lot of funds on the fields. It was also pointed out that the Recreation Commission has had a lot of overlap, members of the different organizations that serve as commissioners. Currently, Todd Cronin is a commissioner and also a volunteer for Rye Little League. Ray Hindle mentioned that a lot of what he has learned came from John Sexton, Del Record and Bob Monahan. It was noted that Lee Arthur is currently evaluating the field use cost.

The Recreation Commission has three proposed projects in 2018 (Recreation Area

Existing Conditions Plan, New Public Restrooms and Multi-purpose Storage Facility). The 2018 Recreation Warrant Article for the Multi-purpose Storage Facility was discussed. It was explained that there is a significant need for heated storage and that the structure would also include a concession area that could be used by the organizations. Gregg Mikolaities requested feedback including anything Rye Recreation could do better.

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 baseball fields. Lee Arthur has been directed to develop a sign policy in order to address any other request to place signage at the area. It was pointed out that there have been no issues with the signage placed by Rye Little League other than the Convenient MD Banner that was very large and faced the road. Due to its size and location it was mistaken that Convenient MD sponsored the whole area. The Guard Rail and Fence Project were discussed. No signage will be allowed on the new fence.

Gregg Mikolaities requested input from each group and went around the room. John Gray and Joe Wilson were present representing the Rye Soccer Association. It was noted that they use one of the sheds outside the soccer snack shack to store flags and a couple of ball bags. They would be interested in utilizing the concession area in the proposed building; however, the distance from the main playing field may make it difficult. There were no issues with mowing; however, some of the sprinkler system heads are too low and have created a problem. The lining of the fields were fine. Lee Arthur indicated that she may need their assistance in the future as John Joslyn, who was lining the field, has retired. Rye Soccer Association has approximately 75 participants in travel soccer and 50 in futsal.

Rye Recreation places a port-a-potty at the Recreation Area May-October. This past year there was an issue with dog waste being placed in the port-a-potty. It was discussed placing it in a different location. The dumpster had been relocated to the back of the parking lot and there were fewer issues. The organizations present were encouraged to utilize the dumpster.

There was a brief discussion regarding population and the organizations allowing participants from other communities. Rye Little League allows North Hampton and Seacoast Lacrosse covers numerous communities.

Mike MacDonald was present representing Seacoast Lacrosse. He passed out a field usage report and pointed out that they use fields in each community based on the percentage of participants they have from that community. He said that they no longer use Lang Corner Field in Rye. The Rye Recreation Fields are used for practices and overflow games, May-June and there were no issues with the mowing. Most of their games are held on the turf in Portsmouth. He indicated that the City of Portsmouth is constructing a 1.2 million turf field by the old stump dump and that two more fields are planned at community campus in the future.

Ray Hindle was present representing Rye Little League. It was noted that a new under drain was just installed on the lower field and that the area will need to be seeded in the spring. Ray Hindle mentioned that they need dugouts; however, they are not suited for the lower field because there is not enough space between the field fence and retaining wall and would restrict field access. There was a discussion regarding school fields and that there is not a middle school field in town. Rye Little League has 150 to 160 participants and there are 60-70 participants playing softball.

Mike MacDonald mentioned that some of their parents want better access to an AED. He discussed the challenges (multiple fields, suitable location etc.) and said there is one at Portsmouth High. It was noted that there is one in the Recreation Office and Rye Little League has one. It was discussed that the proposed building may be able to provide better access to an AED. He mentioned that Seacoast Lacrosse would not be interested in use of the concession area as they have limited games in Rye.

One of the selectmen has suggested that Rye Recreation be included in the town wide mowing RFP. The field mowing was discussed. Mike MacDonald indicated that Parsons Field is mowed sporadically and that Seacoast Lacrosse has no issues with mowing at the Recreation Area. There was a brief discussion regarding weed killer being combined with paint to better identify lines for relining. Shawn Crapo noted that he thought it was a growth inhibitor, not weed killer. The combination is not able to be used with spray cans.

Ray Hindle indicated that they need two cuts a week in season. He pointed out that Outdoor Pride used to look after the baseball fields prior to last year at no charge. Lee Arthur asked if they wanted Rye Recreation to look after mowing the Flash Jenness Memorial Little League Field twice a week in season and once after the season has ended. Rye Recreation already mows the Ralph Morang Field once a week. It was agreed that Rye Recreation would mow the Flash Jenness Memorial Baseball Field twice a week in season and once after the season has ended and the Ralph Morang Field once a week. Rye Little League would be responsible for the turf maintenance on the Flash Jenness Memorial Baseball Field, infield of the lower field and any additional mowing they want on the lower field. They would be required to use the same contractor for mowing as the town.

It was discussed that the landscape contractor will evaluate each field separately and will determine when usage can begin.

Ray Hindle indicated that little league plans to replace the infield of the Flash Jenness Memorial Baseball Field this year. Shawn Crapo suggested using four foot rolls of sod. Ray Hindle asked if anyone knew who could conduct the work. It was noted that Jim Piper of Rye had previously done work on the field. Ray Hindle said he would advise Rye Recreation when the work will take place. Lee Arthur advised that Rye Recreation Baseball Camp, operated by David Adam, was the only event she had scheduled for the field and it was the first week in August.

Shawn Crapo indicated that he will take soil samples of the Ralph Morang Multi-purpose Field. He tried recently; however, the ground was frozen. It was discussed that the mowing and turf maintenance should continue to be provided by the same contractor.

Motion was made by Cory Belden not to participate in the town wide mowing RFP. Seconded by Joe Persechino. Motion carried.

D. Approval of Minutes

- **Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2018.**

The meeting minutes of January 9, 2018 were reviewed. Stephen King indicated that on page 3, second paragraph line 8, the sentence “It was mentioned that last year was an aberration.” should be changed to “However, it was mentioned that it seemed to be an aberration.”

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2018 with the change as discussed. Seconded by Stephen King. Motion carried.

E. Correspondence

- **Financial Reports**

The financial reports for January 2018 were reviewed. The current year expenditures were \$22,769.86 for the Recreation Budget, \$23,724.06 for the Recreation Revolving Fund Budget and \$0 for the Patriotic Purposes Budget. Lee Arthur indicated that the financial report does not include a budget until after the town vote in March.

- **Rye Recreation Annual Report for 2017**

The Rye Recreation Annual Report for 2017 was included in the meeting packet.

- **Other**

A letter from Georgina Gsaravia expressing her interest in serving on the Recreation Commission was included in the meeting packet. She had previously indicated an interest in serving on the commission in September and was unable to attend the meeting due to a work commitment. She is new to the area, a physician at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, and has experience in the field of recreation. Lee Arthur was directed to invite her to the March Recreation Commission Meeting.

F. Old Business

- **2018 Recreation Budget Warrant Article Update**

The 2018 Recreation Warrant Article description and schematics were included in the meeting packet. Gregg Mikolaities reported that the deliberative session went well and that there were no changes to the proposed warrant article. It was noted that Mike Thiel, a resident of Rye, pointed out at the meeting that he had recently built a structure for \$40,000. It was noted that the structure was not the same as what is proposed. However, Lee Arthur will be meeting with him to find out more information.

G. New Business

- **Program Updates**

Included in the meeting packet was a letter to the Rye Recreation Basketball Coaches explaining why the basketball rules were adopted. Brett Mulvey indicated that it was brought to his attention from a parent that a team was playing 6 on 6 full-court and that it was not in keeping with the agreed upon rules. A letter explaining and reinforcing the rules was sent to each coach.

Lee Arthur indicated that on February 9 the coach bus that transports participants to McIntyre Ski Hill in Manchester arrived at Rye Elementary School for pick-up but was unable to transport participants because it was not operating properly. She contacted First Student and they provided a school bus.

Lee Arthur reported that many individuals responded positively to the prospect of offering flag football. She met with the Town of Hampton to learn about their program and indicated that she would like to offer the program in the fall in conjunction with soccer. The NFL has a Youth Flag Football Program and the plan would be to utilize their resources. It would be a pilot program offered to grades 3-5 co-ed, 6-8 boys, and 6-8 girls. There would be no travel. The deadline would be late May and dependent on obtaining enough volunteer coaches. Gregg Mikolaities offered to be the point person for the program and Brett Mulvey indicated he would also assist.

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to offer flag football pending enough registrations and volunteer coaches are obtained. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

- **Other**

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

H. Adjournment

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Stephen King. Motion carried.