



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, February 10, 2020

Rye Congregational Church

Rye Recreation Space 2nd Floor

580 Washington Road, Rye, NH

6:00 p.m.

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

Guests: Paula Tssetsilas, Rye School Board; Shawn Crapo, Seaside Landscaping; Leif Honda, Rye Soccer Association; Sav Huskey and Jeff Ross, Rye Little League; Meg Berling, Seacoast Lacrosse Association (by phone).

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

II. Roll Call

III. School Board Report

Paula Tssetsilas noted that she will not be seeking re-election to the School Board and Debra Crapo has resigned from the board. Therefore, she was uncertain who would be the School Board Representative to Rye Recreation moving forward.

The Rye After School Program space for the upcoming school year was discussed. Paula Tssetsilas indicated that she did not anticipate any changes in space for the next two school years. She was requested to propose the existing terms of the 2019-2020 Rye After School Program Memorandum of Understanding with the exception that it would cover 2 Years (2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year).

Jim Gordon has provided the name of the plumbing contractor that the school utilizes and they will be contacted to provide a quote as to the cost to install a bathroom on the lower level of the school where the After School Program is located.

Brett Mulvey indicated that the 3-4 grades basketball program could use more gym time and that the Adult Open Gym Basketball Program is going well with 15-20 participants

attending on Sunday morning and 5-12 participants attending on Thursday night. It was noted that the new 3-4 grades basketball program was working out and has received positive feedback.

The space designated at Rye Congregational Church for middle school students is currently being renovated. It is hoped that it will be finished and can be viewed by students and parents prior to the upcoming school year.

Paula Tsetsilas pointed out that if the town acquires the former TD Bank property (3.71 acres) there could be land available for recreation purposes. There was a discussion on the plans to build a new baseball field at Lang Corner Field. Paula Tsetsilas inquired as to the possibility of utilizing the Ralph Morang Multi-purpose Field for Rye Junior High Soccer games and a discussion ensued on the need and availability of fields in the community. It was noted that the Rye Recreation Soccer Program uses the facility Tuesday evening and Saturday morning and the remainder of the time is booked by the Rye Soccer Association. Leif Honda and Paula Tsetsilas indicated that they would cooperate.

IV. Discussion

Sav Huskey introduced himself as the new Rye Little League President and explained that he would like to know how field usage works and when they can start their season. Gregg Mikolaities provided background information and noted that the Town of Rye owns the fields and they are managed by Rye Recreation and the responsibility of the Recreation Commission.

Meg Berling, Seacoast Lacrosse Association entered the meeting by phone.

Gregg Mikolaities indicated that there is a process in order to use the fields including the submission of the Rye Recreation Field(s) Use Application and other supporting documents. There was a discussion on participation. Sav Huskey pointed out that last year they had one less major league team, however the same amount of younger participants. Jeff Ross stated that they had 160 participants last season. Steven King asked if there would be the addition of another major league team this year, it was not anticipated. Gregg Mikolaities pointed out that the goal of the commission is to balance the field needs of the community sport organizations.

It was discussed that Little League has been responsible for the turf maintenance of the baseball diamonds (infield mix), painting dug outs etc. and Rye Recreation mows. Shawn Crapo evaluates the fields at the beginning of the season and determines when they are ready for use in collaboration with Steven King. Sav Huskey asked if they could start earlier even if they are not ready for use, if they are responsible for repairs. Steven King indicated that you can do a lot of damage to the fields if you play on them and they are not ready. He pointed out that the readiness of each field differs and that Shawn Crapo and he will work with Little League.

Jeff Ross asked if Rye Recreation is responsible for maintaining the Flash Jenness Memorial Baseball Field. It was discussed that the Town is responsible for mowing the Flash Jenness Memorial Baseball Field twice a week during the season and once a week

after the season has ended. The perimeter of the field is cut once a week. The Ralph Morang Multi-purpose Recreation Field is cut once a week. Little League is responsible for the turf maintenance of the baseball diamonds. It was pointed out that if Little League wanted a second mow per week on the Ralph Morang Multi-purpose Recreation Field that is fine but they would be responsible for paying for it and have to use the Town's contractor.

Little League was paying to have the Flash Jenness Memorial Field mowed up until last year. However, the Town took over the mowing because the year prior it was not looked after properly. It was discussed that the irrigation controls on the Flash Jenness Memorial Field should not be changed once the controls are set by the contractor and the panel should be locked. The irrigation panel is located in the scorer's booth.

Sav Huskey indicated that they would like to be able to get on the fields by April 18, 2020 and that opening day is the first Saturday after April school vacation. Gregg Mikolaities noted if there were any plans for field improvements and if there were to notify the Lee Arthur. There was a discussion as to where t-ball is playing. It was noted that they are currently playing on the side of the overflow parking area at the back corner of the field.

Included in the meeting packet was Seacoast Lacrosse Field(s) Use Application. Lee Arthur indicated that for the past two years, the field(s) would not be open for use; however, lacrosse teams (girls) would show-up. The request for usage was from March 30 - June 20, 2020. Meg Berling indicated that her understanding is that the Rye Recreation Fields are typically not usable until May. This year she was hoping to use the field a back-up for make-up games. Gregg Mikolaities asked if they had requested to use Parsons Field and Meg Berling said yes for practices. Steven King indicated that the insurance certificate should also indemnify the Town. The request was for Monday-Friday, 5:00-7:30 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; and Sunday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Lee Arthur asked that once a schedule is in place that Rye Recreation is notified as there may need to be coordination with Little League.

Leif Honda requested that the lacrosse nets be moved off the field when they are done being used and not be put into the woods, so the field can be mowed properly. Cory Belden pointed out that if the field was to be used for just back-up games they most likely would not need all the times that were requested. Meg Berling noted that she basically put down what was submitted in the past. Gregg Mikolaities indicated that a letter would be sent to her indicating specific details as discussed and include the contact information for the field use contact person. Shawn Crapo said he was not as concerned with moving the lacrosse goals as he was with retrieving all the lacrosse balls off the field as they can damage the mowers. He also expressed the importance of not leaving trash on the fields (empty water bottles).

Meg Berling, Seacoast Lacrosse exited the meeting by phone at 6:55 p.m.

It was indicated that the preference was not to have signs on the batting cage as to keep the area looking good. There was a discussion that Little League can do improvements to the dug outs and fields but should communicate with Lee Arthur and that any capital

projects like the replacement of the batting cage should be presented to the Recreation Commission and approved.

Leif Honda noted that he would be submitting a Field(s) Use Application. It was noted that there was no irrigation last year which affected the condition of the field. He said that he has applied to Target for a grant that would cover the cost of organic fertilizer if received. He mentioned that they will be submitting a proposal for a kicking wall. Gregg Mikolaities noted that there will be two lockers for use in the new storage facility. Little League and Soccer expressed an interest in acquiring a locker. Lee Arthur reminded both organizations that they need to be certified by the State of NH as it pertains to background checks before they can utilize the fields as in the past.

Todd Cronin asked if the \$10,000 set aside for a building assessment at the area include the scorers booth, snack shack and dug outs? Gregg Mikolaities indicated that those structures were not included and that the assessment was in regards to bathrooms. The scorers booth, snack shack and dug outs have never been included in the CIP as Little League has always supported those initiatives. Jeff Ross indicated that they may propose to renovate the scorer's booth and that they have funds available for capital improvements. The Town and Little League have made repairs as suggested by Primex. It was suggested that Little League communicate needed repairs and improvements because the Town may be able to assist. Recently the Town boarded up the scorer's booth window as it was broken.

Shawn Crapo discussed cell towers and the process for placing them in the community. It was noted that the Recreation Commission is opposed to the use of the Recreation area for non-recreation purposes because there is not enough space. Shawn Crapo also discussed the possibility of awarding the Recreation Area Turf Management and Mowing RFP for multiple years. It was left that it would be looked into again.

V. Approval of Minutes

The Recreation Commissioners reviewed the meeting minutes of January 6, 2020. Steven King indicated that on page 3, second paragraph, "She explained that she is neither in favor nor not, in regards to the placement of a cell tower at the recreation Area." Should be replaced with "She explained that she is neither in favor of or against the placement of a cell tower at the Recreation Area."

Stephen King indicated that on page three fourth paragraph "Stephen King asked Keriann Roman if the Recreation Commission voted against putting the Recreation Area in the Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Overlay District, it would not make a difference because the Town does not need the Recreation Commission's approval to be put in the Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Overlay District." Should be replaced with "Stephen King asked Keriann Roman if the Recreation Commission voted against putting the Recreation Area in the Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Overlay District, would it make a difference because the Town does not need the Recreation Commission's approval to be put in the Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Overlay district."

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of Monday, January 6, 2020 as corrected. Seconded by Cory Belden. Motion carried. Gregg Mikolaities and Todd Cronin abstained.

VI. Correspondence

Seacoast Lacrosse Club Rye Recreation Fields Use Application.

It was discussed that the Seacoast Lacrosse field use application can be conditionally approved. However, a letter needs to be sent indicating the following: The Town of Rye needs to be named as additionally insured on their certificate of insurance. They need to obtain the State of NH Youth Background Check Certification. They are responsible for lining the fields, picking up lacrosse balls and trash. They move the lacrosse nets just off the field enough so the fields can be mowed and not to move the soccer nets so far back that they are in the woods. Provide the application fee and a schedule. They can't use the field until they are notified by Stephen King. The letter would also provide Stephen Kings contact information.

Letter from the Board of Selectmen requesting the Recreation Commissions objectives for 2020 and major areas of concern.

Included in the meeting packet was a letter from the Rye Board of Selectmen requesting the Recreation Commissions objectives for 2020 and major areas of concern. Cory Belden has four suggestions complete the storage facility and get it fully operational, begin a pilot program for middle school students at the church, new bathrooms at the Recreation Area and update the Recreation Master Plan, which includes future field development. It was discussed that more of the Recreation Area needs to be surveyed, in order to address the possibility of adding or reconfiguring the field layout to accommodate the field usage needs. There was a discussion about the 3.71 acres the Town may acquire with the proposed property swap and that it could be considered for recreation purposes.

Financial Reports

Lee Arthur provided the commission members with financial reports for January 2020. The recreation budget had expended \$34,875.65; the recreation revolving budget had expended \$12,917.34; and the patriotic purposes budget had no expenditures. It was noted that the 2020 budget is not entered into the financial reports until after the town vote in March. The Youth Recreational Athletics Account had a balance of \$91,487.10.

Other

Included in the meeting packet was an invitation to participate in Rye Day on Sunday, September 27, 2020 and a rain date of October 4, 2020. It was discussed that it would be a great opportunity to publicize the new space at the church and educate the public on Rye Recreation. It was decided to discuss Rye Day further at the next Recreation Commission Meeting.

VII. Old Business

Recreation Multi-Purpose Storage Facility Update

Included in the meeting packet was a e-mail from Jarrod Patten indicating that the gas heater and interior doors are be installed this week and electrical completed.

Rye Congregational Church Lease

The commissioners toured the space. The leased space is currently being painted fully by Sam Hatem who is donating his time at no cost to the Town and the RFP for carpet is currently being developed.

Rye Recreation Area and the Telecommunications Wireless Overlay District Update

The Town Warrant as proposed at the deliberative session was included in the meeting packet and it was noted that the Recreation Area was not part of the proposed Wireless Overlay District.

VIII. New Business

The preservation of the Rye Recreation Area for Recreation Purposes

It was discussed that there is a need to preserve the Recreation Area for recreation purposes as there is a misperception that the Recreation Area is larger than it is because it abuts conservation land and that there is not enough space for future recreation needs.

Rye Recreation Commission Re-appointments

Steven King and Joe Persechino's terms on the commission expire March 2020.

Motion was made by Cory Belden to recommend that Steven King serve another 3 year term on the Recreation Commission expiring in 2023 to the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Cory Belden to recommend that Joe Persechino serve another 3 year term on the Recreation Commission expiring in 2023 to the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried

Program Updates

Lee Arthur mentioned that the spring and summer flyers are almost completed.

IX. Adjournment

Motion was made by Gregg Mikolaities to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

The next Recreation Commission Meeting was tentatively set for Monday, March 2, 2020 at 6 p.m. at the Recreation Office.

**These are draft minutes. Please refer to the minutes of the next meeting for approvals/corrections.*