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**RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, June 1, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**

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

**Guests:** Kate Drago

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**II. Compliant Statement by Gregg Mikolaities**

A Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant with the Right-to-Know Law During the State of Emergency

As Chair of the Recreation Commission, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

- a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Recreation Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 646-558-8656, with meeting ID# 819-4787-2697 and password 309563, or by participating via Zoom with meeting ID# 819-4787-2697 and password 309563.

- b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom. Instructions have also been provided on the Town of Rye website at [www.town.rye.nh.us](http://www.town.rye.nh.us)

- c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem, please call (603) 964-5523 or email [kdrago@town.rye.nh.us](mailto:kdrago@town.rye.nh.us)

- d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know Law.

### **III. Roll Call Attendance**

Stephen King, no one else in the room; Gregg Mikolaities, no one else in the room, Cory Belden, no one else in the room; Georgina Saravia, Anna and Josephine are in the room; Todd Cronin, no one else in the room; Joe Persechino no one else in the room; Brett Mulvey, no one else in the room and Lee Arthur, no one else is in the room.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

The Recreation Commissioners reviewed the meeting minutes of May 18, 2020.

*Motion was made by Stephen King to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of Monday, May 18, 2020. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. All in favor roll call vote: Cory Belden, yes; Todd Cronin, yes; Brett Mulvey, yes; Joe Persechino, yes; Georgina Saravia, yes; Steven King, yes; and Gregg Mikolaities, yes. Motion carried.*

### **V. Discussion**

Recreation Fields Use and Stay at Home 2.0 Amateur and Youth Sports COVID-19 Re-opening Guidance.

The Recreation Field(s) Use Application was updated to account for COVID-19. The following rules and regulations were added:

- Comply with applicable emergency orders and public health requirements (CDC Guidance and State of NH COVID-19 Reopening Guidance).
- Comply with sport specific national sport organization guidance during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

- The applicant must submit an operational plan detailing the protocols in place in order to comply with applicable emergency orders, public health requirements and sport specific national sport organization guidance.
- Background check certification is now required from NHDHHS instead of the NHDES.
- The applicant must also provide an e-mail or letter from the insurance provider that the general liability insurance policy does not exclude claims arising from disease or pandemic, or claims occurring during a state of emergency. As recommended by the Town of Rye insurance provider.

Gregg Mikolaities asked if field use for Rye Little League had already been approved. It was noted that no application has been received. Lee Arthur indicated when updating the document, she consulted with Russ Wilson, Recreation Director, City of Portsmouth; Police Chief and Emergency Management Director, Kevin Walsh; Primex, the Town of Rye insurance provider and the different guidance documents.

The Recreation Field(s) Use Application was also changed to require the signature of the authorized signatory of the organization.

It was discussed that the Recreation Field(s) Use Application needs to be fully completed and signed and accompany: the Organizations Operational Plan for COVID-19; Certificate of Insurance; e-mail or letter from insurance provider that the general liability insurance policy does not exclude claims arising from disease or pandemic, or claims occurring during a state of emergency; proof of NHDHHS Certification of Backgrounds Checks and a fee if applicable.

It was discussed whether to open field(s) for permitted activities only or otherwise. The City of Portsmouth are opening fields and if they are being monitored by staff and if the guidance is not followed, they will be closed.

Todd Cronin suggested that the field(s) should be reopened like beaches and left to the residents to police. It was discussed that organized activities need a permit. Gregg Mikolaities mentioned that there are three approaches: 1. Open the fields with a sign that says permit required; 2. Open the fields and require individuals to follow Stay at Home 2.0 Guidance and 3. Do nothing.

There was a discussion on what protocols should be followed and by who. Brett Mulvey suggested that parents of RLL players should follow the RLL Protocols and those that are not associated with RLL follow 2.0. If the parent is an RLL Coach and has someone other than their child with them it should be under RLL. Todd Cronin disagreed. It was mentioned that RLL could book times for their membership.

Joe Persechino suggested opening the fields. Require permit for organizations and individuals to follow 2.0 Guidance. Brett Mulvey indicated that if a group is not following the rules the permit needs to be revoked. Stephen King mentioned that the rules need to be advertised. It was discussed being adaptable as the guidance changes and to

go with requiring a Field(s) Use Permit for organized activities and requiring all field users to follow the State of NH 2.0 Guidance. The Stay at Home 2.0 Guidance was discussed, how RLL would operate and the PLL Plan.

Brett Mulvey suggested reaching out to all user groups (softball, soccer, lacrosse and baseball) and finding out if they are interested in using the fields. Because the school fields may not be available. Rye Youth Softball will be asking the Rye School Board if they can use the RES field at their next meeting.

It was discussed that the mowing was cut back on the baseball field to once a week and once being used a mow will be added.

Stephen King discussed the residence (%) requirements and posed the question of whether there maybe increase in request and from other Town because fields are not opened elsewhere. It was noted that the requirement was on the permit but does not apply to individuals.

The motion was discussed. Lee Arthur requested some time to have signage made, notify the selectmen and Police Chief, Kevin Walsh. The reopening was set for Friday, June 5, 2020.

***Motion was made by Cory Belden that the Rye Recreation Commission opens the Rye Recreation Area Fields at 55 Recreation Road to all parties subject to Stay at Home 2.0 Guidelines. Any organization using the fields must have an approved field use permit. This opening of the fields is subject to notification of the Emergency Operations Committee and Board of Selectmen and will go into effect on or before June 5, 2020. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. All in favor roll call vote: Cory Belden, yes; Todd Cronin, yes; Brett Mulvey, yes; Joe Persechino, yes; Georgina Saravia, yes; Steven King, yes; and Gregg Mikolaities, yes. Motion carried.***

The action items were discussed: Contact lacrosse, softball, soccer and baseball; get signage for the Recreation Area; review applications with Stephen King; and notify the Board of Selectman and Emergency Operations Committee.

**VI. Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**VII. New Business**

No new business.

**VIII. Old Business**

The cancellation of summer programming was discussed. Lee Arthur reported that when notifying parents, they were very understanding. Many indicated that they expected cancellations and others indicated that their circumstances had changed (laid off and working from home this summer). Summer camp participants were redirected to the Seacoast Science Center and others directly with the contractor (golf).

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration has been cancelled (no fireworks) and Lee Arthur is working on a video that will be released on the 4<sup>th</sup> and include photos from the Patriotic Faces of Rye Photo Contest.

The next Recreation Commission Meeting was set for Monday, July 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. location TBD or virtually via Zoom.

## **IX. Adjournment**

*Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. seconded by Georgina Saravia. All in favor roll call vote: Steven King, yes; Cory Belden, yes; Todd Cronin, yes; Joe Persechino, yes; Brett Mulvey, yes; Georgina Saravia, yes; and Gregg Mikolaities, yes. Motion carried.*

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