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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

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

Zoom Coordinator: Becky Bergeron

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 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# 897-6397-8414 and password 156351, or by participating via Zoom with meeting ID# 897-6397-8414 and password 156351.

- 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

- 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 email Becky Bergeron at bbergeron@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

Lee Arthur, no one else in the room; Gregg Mikolaities, no one else in the room, Cory Belden, no one else in the room; Brett Mulvey, no one else in the room, Todd Cronin, no one else in the room, Georgina Saravia indicated that Josephine Saravia is in the room with her.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The Recreation Commissioners reviewed the meeting minutes of Monday, November 2, 2020.

Motion was made by Cory Belden to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of Monday, November 2, 2020. Seconded by Georgina Saravia. All in favor roll call vote: Georgina Saravia, yes; Brett Mulvey, yes; Todd Cronin, yes; Cory Belden, yes; and Gregg Mikolaities, yes. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence

Letter from Myles Leatherman requesting an off-leash dog park in Rye.

A letter was received from resident Myles Leatherman advocating for an off-leash dog park in Rye. Lee Arthur explained that Myles Leatherman was notified that his correspondence would be placed on the January 20, 2021, Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda and had responded that he would not be able to attend the meeting. He indicated that the Recreation Commission could skip over his correspondence or address it and he would be happy to respond to any questions via e-mail.

It was discussed that Lee Arthur would notify Myles Leatherman of the Recreation Commissions jurisdiction and ask that he clarify his request in terms of specifics. It was

also suggested that she provide guidance as to who is responsible for some of the other areas in town mentioned in his letter. It was noted that as the Recreation Commission works on updating the Recreation Area Master Plan a dog park could be taken under consideration as well as many other options for the area.

E-mail from Suzanne Lull indicating RES still closed to outside groups.

In December, the principal at Rye Elementary School, Suzanne Lull was approached about allowing Rye Recreation to utilize the school for Rye Recreational Basketball and the After School Program. Her e-mail reply indicated that she had a discussion with the superintendent and the building is closed to outside groups. However, at some point, if they are comfortable opening up to the public, Rye Recreation would be notified.

It was noted that currently the Rye schools were conducting in person learning 4 days a week and some after school activities were being held at Rye Junior High. Gregg Mikolaities asked the commissioners if they wanted to pursue offering a Saturday basketball open gym program or wait until next year. Brett Mulvey indicated that he would prefer to wait until next year. Todd Cronin suggested not offering the After School Program until next year and that the time to offer basketball would be now. Cory Belden mentioned that it is difficult for youth to miss a whole sports season. He suggested offering basketball later in the year as now was not a good time. It was discussed that if the program was offered at another time it would conflict with other sports. Brett Mulvey mentioned that other towns are not having basketball this year and at the high school level their games are on hold because of the pandemic. It was noted that currently the gym is not available anyway.

Memorandum from Janice Ireland requesting Rye Recreation's Annual Report ending December 31, 2020.

Gregg Mikolaities explained that Rye Recreation's Annual Report for 2020 was included in the meeting packet and has been submitted as requested.

Financial Reports

Lee Arthur provided the Recreation Commissioners with the financial reports for December. The recreation budget had \$264,384.85 expended and 22.31% left because some of the funds were attached to programs that were not held. The recreation revolving budget had \$51,818.54 expended and 82.02% left because the budget was frozen due to no program revenue. The patriotic purposes budget had \$5,576.76 expended and 47.88% left because both the Memorial Day Ceremony and the July 4th Celebration were not held, and a video was produced instead. The Youth Recreational Athletics Account balance was \$97,157.72.

It was noted that the July 4th Celebration for the upcoming year is going to cost approximately \$10,000 more than in the past, because volunteer Jack Tobey has retired. It was discussed when to book a vendor, what they would require for a deposit and if July 4th would be available. Before committing to a vendor, it was suggested to readdress the event with the Selectmen as it may not be feasible to hold a large gathering this July.

Gregg Mikolaities requested that the July 4th Celebration be added to the next agenda under Old Business.

In 2020 there was \$10,000 allocated under Capital Outlay for the Recreation Buildings and Area Assessment that would answer the question where public restrooms should be located at the Recreation Area. It was discussed that it was budgeted for 2021 and not encumbered because it was decided not to issue an RFP and sign a contract before yearend.

VII. Old Business

Recreation Area Master Plan

The Recreation Commissioners reviewed the latest survey of the Recreation Area taken just prior to Multipurpose Storage Building being built and master plans of the area from the late 1990's that were included in the meeting packet. Different possibilities for the area were discussed including multi-use tennis courts that could accommodate basketball, pickleball and futsal; dog park, ice-skating rink and pavilion. It was noted that considering the pandemic and lack of accessible indoor space, flexible outdoor space/surfaces are desirable. Gregg Mikolaities requested the commissioners come to the next meeting with a list of possible options for the area that could act as place holders for the next 10-20 years.

Recreation Area Playground

Lee Arthur reported that the playground was reopened last month. The wave rider and a climbing wall had to be removed as they were broken, and the leap pad area has been cordoned off as it is broken and was unable to be removed. The parts have been ordered and once received the equipment will be reinstalled.

Other

It was discussed that the fields are closed and there has been not organized activity on them other than dog walkers.

VIII. New Business

Other

It was discussed that Gregg Mikolaities and Brett Mulvey's terms on the Recreation Commission expire in March and the question was raised whether they are interested in renewing for another 3 years. Gregg Mikolaities indicated that he is interested in serving another three years but does not want to continue as the chairperson. Brett Mulvey mentioned that he will have a decision by the next meeting but was leaning towards serving again. It was noted that the process is that the Recreation Commission would make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

The Town Forest Map was included in the meeting packet and the flyer distributed at the Multipurpose Storage Facility Ribbon Cutting and Open House for information purposes.

Todd Cronin mentioned that Rye Little League will be opening registration at the end of January or early in February. He noted that they hope to start in the spring, weather

permitting and asked if there is anything, they would need to do differently than last year. Lee Arthur mentioned that they would need to follow any state orders and would check with emergency management. But thought they had addressed everything as part of last year's plan.

Brett Mulvey suggested seeing if more money could be spent on the fields that would assist with their usability. It was discussed that UNH had been consulted in the past and that the turf management vendor would be consulted.

The next meeting of the Recreation Commission was set for Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. by zoom.

IX. Adjournment

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. seconded by Cory Belden. All in favor roll call vote: Todd Cronin, yes; Brett Mulvey, yes; Georgina Saravia, yes; Cory Belden, yes and Gregg Mikolaities, yes. Motion carried.

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