

SANDOWN RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

Approved 3/27/19

MINUTES – RECREATION COMMISSION

02/13/19

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CALLED TO ORDER: At 7:00 PM by Chairman George Blaisdell. Members present were George Blaisdell; John Donahue and Darren Hudgins, ex officio. Also present was Recreation Director Deb Brown. Absent Jessica Scarlett. Recording Secretary Nicky Utman has had to resign her position

MOTION: Darren Hudgins to approve the minutes of 12-06-19. Second John Donahue. No Discussion.

VOTE: Unanimous

Mrs. Brown explained there had been a request from the Planning Board regarding the Capital Improvement Plan. There was a question regarding there being money for a generator being included in the former CIP in the amount of \$27,000 for the recreation building. As far as she can remember, this item was not placed in the plan by the Recreation Commission but rather as an item that would help the town if there was a need for a “warming station” during periods of extended power outages etc. and not for recreation programs to run. It may have been suggested by Emergency Management. She remembered that in order to be an overnight emergency “shelter” it is her understanding that bathing/showering facilities need to be available and they are not available in the recreation building. The building is handicap accessible and had been looked at from that aspect. Selectmen Bruce Cleveland had a question regarding the expense of the generator and was looking for additional clarification. Mrs. Brown spoke with Master Electrician Tom Tamborello who did the electrical work in the building when it was built. He explained that there are two services that come into the building that go to 2 separate electrical panels. He wasn’t sure if it would be as much as \$27K but felt it would be “very expensive, no doubt about it”.

Mrs. Brown reported on the upcoming need for playground maintenance at the Garvey Facility. She had previously sent members photos of the damage/water situation on the playground. She reports the playground is now locked for the following reasons: The ground is frozen and becomes hard like concrete. A fall from equipment would be very dangerous. 2. The ‘trip and fall’ risk is way up due to the deep ‘water ditches’ created by the heavy rain during the big December rainstorm. Damage occurred from the water that ran down the field and through the playground before exiting the opposite side of it. There is deep ‘trenching’ and ruts that have occurred. In some places they are well over a foot deep. She had Wayne Britton look at it and he reported that it is not an obvious fix and that work would need to be done along the field where it is coming from to divert it elsewhere.

There is also the need for work at the beach area. The culvert on Seeley Road that runs off Seeley Road, down the hill, under the beach stairs and out the other side, is not catching the water. She spoke to someone from the highway department who said something was altered somehow on that road and the water is running past the culvert and straight over and down the hill. This has caused huge ditches, exposed rock, and sand to run over the beach stairs, burying a large section of them. She is going to talk with the road agent to see if there is anything that can be done to fix this situation.

There was a request received from the Heritage Commission regarding an indoor yard sale at the recreation building. Most Saturdays during April/May/June the parking lot is filled to capacity with soccer parking. It would not be fair to the soccer league, that pays to rent the facility for their season, to limit their parking access. It would be better to allow this during the summer months and prior to the fall soccer season where the same situation would occur.

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There is upcoming children's programming happening at the end of the month during the February School vacation. Signatures for requisition forms are needed for the field trip and bus transportation which is paid for out of the recreation revolving account by the fees charged to those who use the program. A senior event is happening for Saint Patrick's that will take place at the recreation building and co-hosted by the recreation departments of Plaistow and Atkinson. The entertainer is Mel Simmons, a former WBZ radio personality.

The director attended the annual Norther New England Recreation and Parks Association Conference in North Conway January 8-10th. Many different seminars were offered with classes starting at 8:30 in the morning and going through until 6 PM. It works out well as Plaistow and Atkinson directors also attend and each of the 3 directors attend different classes that occur at the same time so that they can share information afterwards. The 3 directors took advantage of getting together in the evening to plan out some joint activities for the coming year. The first one will be on March 14th here in Sandown for St. Patrick's Day.

Mrs. Brown recently submitted an article she wrote for inclusion in the quarterly newsletter for New Hampshire Recreation and Parks Association and was happy to see it chosen to be included. In it she addressed the benefits of being able to work with other recreation departments and the benefits of sharing the workload; expense and planning. The towns of Sandown/Atkinson/Plaistow most recently hosted a family event at the Performing Arts Center for a New Year's Eve Community show with "Audio Body" that was very well attended.

Members reviewed information regarding the possibility of adding some type of projection or large screen viewing for movies or TV in the recreation space. At the recommendation of Cable TV Manager Chris Donnellan, Brad Jett of Access A/V LLC out of Concord provided specs and quotes for varying types of equipment. None of it is inexpensive. He submitted 4 quotes however no decision was made to move ahead. There was discussion on being able to offer outdoor movies and Mrs. Brown provided some information regarding licensing fees and penalties if they are not paid. She will bring more info to the Commission and will also be talking with the library about this as they offer movies at the library.

The Recreation Dept. is offering an upcoming six-week after school program, "Let's Move" for kids in Grades 1-5 at Sandown North. There is a February School Vacation Week program running the last week in February. Mrs. Brown is working with a volunteer and will be offering a playgroup for parents of babies and toddlers on Wednesday mornings. Once the background check for the volunteer is complete she will be able to manage the group provided more than one adult is present with her in the building. In the meantime the director is always onsite during the program.

Meetings are already underway with summer program coordinators to firm up field trip dates and venues so that reservations and deposits, where needed, may be made. June 24th is looking like the first day for the 7-week program. Mr. Blaisdell had previously asked the director to explore the possibility of government surplus trailer availability with the police chief. She spoke with Chief Gordon, but he did not have any info on this. He said he could provide the names of places to purchase one.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Brown

Interim Recording Secretary