

Recreation Commission Meeting**Minutes: 05-12-21****Page 1 of 2**

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Chairman George Blaisdell. Present: John Donahue; Heidi Dyer; George Blaisdell; Darren Hudgins, ex officio. Absent: Jennifer Dargas. Also present: Deb Brown, Recreation Director.

There were no minutes available to review. Mr. Blaisdell mentioned he cannot open attachments that Deb Brown has sent. Everyone else said they are able to open and the attachment is coming through to them as a pdf. George will look into his phone since everyone else can open the sent files. Darren Hudgins reported that he had spoken with "Tony" from Timberline Sign in Rye regarding the sign and had sent a screen shot of the original sign to that person. The person passed on quoting saying he couldn't take anything else on right now.

Deb reported she had taken pieces of the sign to Plaistow to both Nassar Jewelers and Benjamin Moore Paint Place to see if either could verify that the paint used in the original sign contained Gold Leaf.

Verifying the Gold Leaf has been an ongoing issues with the insurance company saying that proving that it was gold leaf was going to be up to the Commission.

It had been documented in the paperwork from Sean Sullivan who had done the original sign as an Eagle Scout project, that the sign had cost more than he had planned due to the gold leaf. The name of the original sign maker was in the paperwork and Deb had spent some time trying to track down that person only to discover the company was no longer in business. She investigated more and was able to find a name on Facebook that lined up with this person. She contacted him and he generously offered to go back through his old records and come up with information on the sign but did remember working with Eagle Scout candidate Sean Sullivan and said it was gold leaf paint. He said his records were in storage but would see what he could find. She has not heard back yet.

Nasser Jewelers also tried to help but were unable to verify even after scraping some of the paint off and looking at it through a jeweler's eye piece. The paint store was unable to verify as well. The reason for the gold leaf is that it stands up extremely well to the elements (and as evidenced by the pieces presented that it was still in good shape after 10 years). Deb circled back to the original quotes and contacted ProSource Sign and discovered that the gentleman who does the work for Pro Source Sign is Paul Botting and he happens to live in Sandown. The members didn't know him however George did know of him and the consensus was to request that he meet up with Deb to look things over. Barlo Sign and ProResource Sign will need to update their quotes as it has been more than a year due to insurance bumps and delays caused by Covid-19.

A discussion was begun in regard to the possible pavilion plan that is being researched and formulated. The Commission left the meeting room to go outdoors to look at possible site locations on the property and the feasibility of different locations. Several different sites and pavilion sizes were looked at. Members circled back to placement being behind the building. No decision has been made.

Upon reentering the meeting room members began a discussion on whether or not a Babe Ruth Field could be incorporated into the Garvey Field. This was talked about a few years ago. The infrastructure is there. Another plan by a different group was put forth during that time and went to a warrant article to purchase land. Article failed and still no Babe Ruth Field. Members are also interested in getting quotes on larger sized pavilions. Get quotes on 30 x 40 and 30 x 50. Sandown Central Principal had approved use of the gym but a new principal will be taking over on July 1st and hopefully won't change the plan. The tent rental would be in the vicinity of \$6,000 for the duration of the summer program. The cost was covered under money available from the federal government for Covid related expenses last year however there has been no indication that money such as that would be available for this year. Last year the program didn't have a large enough space available to safely distant kids. Deb had also spoken with Gary Paradis who is the Facilities Director for the school district about use of the school. He also will be leaving his position on June 30th. It's difficult not knowing what the availability for program space would be. Covid-19 protocol from the state has been slow in being released. There are indications that group sizes will increase. The state has now included employees who work with children for the vaccine and Deb has let summer employees know this and how to register if they want to.

Work on the parking lot at Miller Field is progressing. A discussion was begun about the need for recreation specific software for the recreation dept. that would allow registrations, payments, reports to be done on line. It would also track the number of spaces available in a program. It would generate financial reports and others. The director mentioned she has been requesting rec specific software for at least the past 7 years and it doesn't go anywhere. She asked that a member meet with a rep from MyRec to have that software program explained, how it works, associated costs etc. John Donahue said he would and also discussed that he could build a program to allow the things Deb has mentioned. There are costs associated with the MyRec software based on how much revenue is taken in. It looks as if that could be approximately \$2,500 per year but it also gives the department an "employee" who is working 24/7 and 365 days per year. John Donahue will take lead on this.

The next meeting will take place on 06-02-21.

Submitted,
Deb Brown
Substituting for a recording secretary