

# RECREATION COMMISSION

## Town of Sandown, NH

**Meeting Date:** 5/4/2022

**Meeting Location:** Rec Building

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**Members Present:** Heidi Dyer; Darren Hudgins; ex officio; Chris Longchamps; Chairman George Blaisdell; John Donahue

**Also Present:** Becky Thompson, Rec Director

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Blaisdell at 6:35pm.

Hudgins made a motion to accept minutes as written from 4/20/2022.

**Motion By:** Hudgins

**Seconded By:** Donahue

**In Favor:** Donahue, Dyer, Blaisdell, Longchamps

**Abstain:** Hudgins

**Motion passes 4-0-1.**

Donahue noted that Line 59 on 4/20/2022 minutes should read "SBSA" instead of "SPSA."

***Discussion of new business begins.***

### **New Programs**

Thompson shared that she plans to schedule classes for Level-1 Yoga and Gentle Yoga. She also is in contact with an instructor for children's tumbling and dance. Thompson has also reached out to a mobile veterinary van to consider hosting mobile veterinary and/or pet vaccine clinics.

Longchamps suggested scheduling a coinciding pet parade or dog show. Thompson has also reached out to AAA about hosting a safety driving course.

### **E-Sports**

Thompson suggested the idea of a video game sports league. She said that Chester runs this program and did very well during Covid. Longchamps thought it would be a good idea for a winter activity. Start-up cost is a one-time fee of \$500, and costs participants \$40 to sign up. They offer a "monitor" who makes sure there is no cyber bullying. Players would play from their homes and must own the console and game. Leagues can be played locally (among Sandown residents) or regionally (Sandown residents vs. Chester residents, for example). Members agreed that the cost was high and agreed to not move forward with it at this time.

***Discussion of business from previous meetings begins.***

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### **Miller Field Repairs and Parking Expansion**

Members discussed repairing sink holes. Blaisdell said the large hole had been filled in, and members agreed to make other field improvements in the fall. Thompson said she got an email from Timberlane Softball looking to use Sandown fields for practice. Donahue said the fields are being used every day and there is no availability for them. Members discussed taking trees down in October or November to make room for parking lot expansion, and discussed signage at Miller field.

### **Rec Desk Update**

Dyer showed members the steps and instructions of how residents would sign up for Summer Rec through Rec Desk. She shared that her draft of Terms and Conditions was approved by the Selectmen and town council, and has been posted. She also said that they are hoping to use Clover Connect for the credit card service. Rec Desk works largely with them and they reached out to us once we were in a contract. Members discussed posting about Rec Desk before it launches for residents to create accounts and familiarize themselves with the software. Members also discussed CIT sign-ups, and decided to have a check box for acknowledgement that says they have read that their CIT sign-up is an application and it is not a guaranteed position. Thompson hopes to use Rec Desk to sign up for all events in the future.

### **Summer Rec Update**

Thompson updated members that everything is going smoothly so far with planning Summer Rec Program. She has emailed all staff from last year, to see if they would like to return or to confirm that they are returning this year. They are hoping for a launch date of Monday 5/9 to begin taking online sign-ups through Rec Desk software, and hope to not need in-person registration this year, but Thompson is prepared to help via phone when needed. First-time campers may be asked to have an in-person follow-up with Thompson for additional information, such as a birth certificate. Longchamps asked what they plan to do if someone wants in-person registration. Dyer said that a form can be printed out and a check can be dropped off during regular hours.

Members discussed the possibility of hiring 15-year-olds as junior CIT's. Thompson shared that she was nervous about hiring 15-year-olds. Donahue discouraged Thompson from hiring 15-year-olds if it makes her uncomfortable.

Thompson spoke with the Sandlot about lifeguard training. She hopes to advertise to existing counselors to become lifeguard certified. Members also discussed having staff be CPR certified. Summer Rec currently only has one returning lifeguard, and Thompson said the returning lifeguard will be scheduled while Summer Rec campers are at the beach. Members discussed raising lifeguard pay and compared to surrounding towns and camps. Thompson is hoping to have dual counselor/lifeguard staff, who are counselors who can transition into lifeguard role while they are at the beach. Transitioning out of counselor role will cause them to be out of ratio, but Thompson or other counselors would step in and replace them. Members also discussed the need to always have two lifeguards on duty.

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102  
103    Next meeting is scheduled for 5/18/2022.  
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105    Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Blaisdell at 8:00pm.  
106    ***Motion By:*** Blaisdell  
107    ***Seconded By:*** Donahue  
108    ***In Favor:*** All  
109    ***Motion passes unanimously.***  
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114    **Submitted By:**  
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119    Jessica Manning  
120    Recording Secretary