

RECREATION COMMISSION

Town of Sandown, NH

Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: June 21, 2023

Meeting Location: Recreation Building

Members Present: Chairman George Blaisdell; Darren Hudgins, ex officio; Heidi Dyer; Benjamin Sharpe

Members Absent: Christopher Longchamps

Also Present: Becky Thompson, Recreation Director

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Blaisdell at 6:30pm

Mr. Hudgins made a motion to accept minutes as written from June 7, 2023.

Motion By: Mr. Hudgins

Seconded By: Mr. Sharpe

In Favor: Mr. Hudgins and Mr. Blaisdell

Abstain: Mr. Sharpe and Ms. Dyer

Motion failed. Approval of the 6/7/23 minutes will be postponed to the next meeting.

New Business:

Review of Invoices:

- Wildlife Encounters: \$272.25
- Greenskeeper had two invoices: \$1,150.90 and \$1,470.00
- 20 yards of Playground wood chips: \$706.57
- Walmart (ratchet straps on tents, freeze pops, cookies for staff training): \$263.70. Ms. Thompson noted that the fire chief wants all the tarps on the tents replaced next year.
- The invoice for the lifeguard class was approved and needed signatures.
- Refund requests for camp: \$165 accidental sign-up, \$130 and \$160 for sign-ups that campers will no longer be attending.

Summer Camp Update

Ms. Thompson noted that counselor training went well. They set up the tents and new counselors had CPR training.

They held the first-time camper orientation with 25 families attending and held the CIT orientation and had five families attend; both went well. Both the coordinators and the MESH counselor were present.

Ms. Thompson noted that in years past they have given returning counselors a pay raise. The coordinators and lifeguards were both given raises already, their wages are paid out of the budget, so they received the 5% raise. Counselors are paid out of the revolving recreation fund, so they typically receive a dollar amount increase. Mr. Blaisdell thought there was a wage matrix in place for counselors. Ms. Dyer believed that was discussed during budget season. Mr. Blaisdell believed the rate was supposed to be

increased by fifty cents. Ms. Thompson added that starting counselors currently receive \$11/hour; there are ten counselors returning this year. Assistant coordinators were increased from \$13 to \$15 when they were made coordinators. The Board discussed the budget and what increases they could afford within that budget. There is an extra two weeks of the summer program so there is additional money coming in to offset the additional expense. The Board agreed to do a fifty cent raise for returning counselors.

The Board discussed whether extending the summer recreation program to 8 weeks was working. Ms. Thompson noted that most families are happy with the extended time.

The Board agreed to go to one meeting per month for the summer. If anything pops up during camp, they can add a meeting. The next meeting will be July 19, 2023, which will be the fourth week into camp. That way if anything needs to be adjusted, they can discuss it. August 16, 2023 will be the following meeting.

Ms. Thompson presented the TYSL invoice. TYSL rents the fields and asked that they get invoiced every season instead of once per year. The invoice that was presented was for the spring season. It went up a little bit because of the new port-o-potty company. Mr. Blaisdell noted the back part of the field is very wet and poorly drained. The vegetation along the edge of the field is encroaching on the space and should be cut back. The Board approved the invoice.

Ms. Thompson noted the first Friday movie night was coming up. There was the possibility of rain so it may need to be inside. If it wasn't raining and was going to be held outside, one of the Board members needed to help do setup because Ms. Thompson wasn't able to attend. There were three families signed up. Tricia Thomas from the library was checking with the families to see if they would come to an indoor movie to determine if they would simply cancel if there was bad weather. Ms. Thompson would keep board updated.

Ms. Thompson noted the farmers market was cancelled because she only got three vendors and it wasn't worth holding with so few.

Ms. Dyer questioned if there was more senior programming coming up. Ms. Thompson noted they did bi-monthly coffee hour, 60+ meetings and had a few trips during the spring. They generally stop during the summer. Ms. Dyer questioned if the senior exercise class was still running. Ms. Thompson explained the instructor was no longer able to continue the class because of a medical issue. Ballroom dancing will be returning after the summer; they had 16 people attend the last session. Junior explorers and the summer playgroup are the only other programs being run during the summer since she doesn't have much time outside of summer camp.

Ms. Thompson added that rentals of the recreation center were good; they had one every weekend in May and June had two rentals. Mr. Blaisdell questioned if staff cleaned the space before a rental. Ms. Thompson noted the custodian came in on Thursdays and she would make sure the after-school program was cleaned up as well. Mr. Blaisdell added that he wanted to make sure the space was completely clear of toys and clutter before a rental. Ms. Dyer added that the bulletin boards should be used to advertise future programming.

Mr. Sharpe noted that he looked into the deed for the adjacent conservation property that is being given to the town. The easement is limited to camping, trails, sporting play operations, firearms, skeet shooting and infrastructure to raise livestock or waterfowl. Mr. Villella sold the development rights so they cannot

93 build on it. The Board would like to build a baseball field but isn't sure if that will be allowed. They
94 would only be using the land that has already been excavated. Mr. Sharpe spoke with someone about
95 pricing for building a field and it will likely cost around \$250,000, which is a very rough estimate. There
96 is \$18,000 in the Field of Dreams account to be used for a Babe Ruth field. Currently the town needs a
97 Babe Ruth field and an additional softball field.

98
99 Mr. Sharpe added that he will be removing the temporary fence down at "C" field at Miller Field and will
100 shut the gate.

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102 Sandown's Babe Ruth team made the championships and will play in Raymond if anyone wants to attend
103 the game.

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105 **Meeting Adjourned at 7:25.**

106
107 **Submitted By:**

108
109 *Andrea Cairns*

110
111 Andrea Cairns
112 Assistant to the Town Administrator