

# RECREATION COMMISSION

## Town of Sandown, NH

### **Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Date:** January 3, 2024

**Meeting Location:** Rec Building

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**Members Present:** Chairman George Blaisdell; Ben Sharpe; Darren Hudgins, ex officio; Chris Longchamps

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

**Members Not Present:** Heidi Dyer

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

Hudgins made a motion to accept minutes as written from December 6, 2023.

**Motion By:** Hudgins

**Seconded By:** Blaisdell

**In Favor:** Hudgins; Blaisdell; Longchamps

**Abstain:** Sharpe

**Motion passes 3-0-1.**

Hudgins made a motion to accept non-public minutes as written from December 6, 2023.

**Motion By:** Hudgins

**Seconded By:** Blaisdell

**In Favor:** Hudgins; Blaisdell; Longchamps

**Abstain:** Sharpe

**Motion passes 3-0-1.**

### **Contract between Sandown Recreation and The Sandown Baseball/ Softball Association**

***Sean Tiney joined meeting.***

Francis explained that she found policies created in 2002 for a Rec/Baseball agreement, and members read the first draft of Francis' newly written Memorandum of Understanding regarding responsibilities shared between Rec and Baseball. Members and Tiney discussed school fields and the responsibility of maintenance between Baseball and Rec. Sharpe explained that Select Excavation helped last year but they cannot depend on that yearly, and doesn't think Baseball can fund the improvements and maintenance needed. Members discussed using volunteers to help, and Tiney reminded that they are trying to provide a low-cost baseball program. Sharpe said that added costs are using other fields for older kids to play on, since Sandown doesn't have large enough fields, and pest control, which is of critical importance for using the snack shack. Tiney explained that he spends lots of time maintaining the fields, which was made more difficult after a rainy year like last year. Members discussed fundraising and volunteering, and Hudgins felt strongly that sports programs cannot survive without parent volunteers.

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53  
54 ***Continued***

55 **Contract between Sandown Recreation and The Sandown Baseball/ Softball**  
56 **Association -**

57  
58 Tiney explained the hazards of specific fields and repairs that are needed. Members  
59 discussed sinkholes from irrigation, and Sharpe said there is extensive work that has to be done.  
60 Members agreed to look into repairs to keep the fields playable, and the possibility of using ARPA  
61 money. Members and Tiney discussed the potential costs of the needed repairs, and considered the  
62 possibility of using grants, or adding a line in the budget for Miller Field. Sharpe said he can look  
63 into \$4,000-\$6,000 worth of repairs and get back to them. Tiney and Sharpe reminded that the  
64 fields are owned by the town, and Baseball does their best to maintain the fields after use, but feel  
65 that field maintenance and repairs are the town's responsibility. Hudgins suggested discussing  
66 adding it to the budget at Deliberative Session, and asked that Baseball give them a list of field  
67 repairs needed. Sharpe felt it should be Rec's responsibility to decide what repairs are needed  
68 since the fields are town-owned and Baseball is a separate entity. Hudgins said Baseball has always  
69 done this, and Sharpe disagreed.

70 Members discussed safety concerns, and agreed to address those before other issues.  
71 Members and Tiney also discussed parking, and the possibility of having the fields totally redone.  
72 Sharpe said he can make arrangements for teams to play elsewhere this year, if they chose to fully  
73 redo the fields. Members and Tiney agreed to collaborate and come to an agreement regarding the  
74 Memorandum of Understanding.

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76 ***Tiney left meeting.***

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78 Members discussed the Memorandum of Understanding, and Blaisdell said he wants to wait for a  
79 full board to be present before making decisions.

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82 **End of Year Survey**

83 Francis explained that she sent out the end-of-year survey, and had good feedback. There was not  
84 much feedback from seniors, but there were some requests for more senior offerings. Francis said  
85 some of ideas for future programming with interest were a town-wide cookout and adult recess,  
86 which would include games.

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90 **Upcoming Programming**

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92 ***Encore Bus Trip***

93 Wednesday, February 21st and will offer \$20 of free play. Cost is \$27.

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95 ***Themed Game Nights***

96 Francis said she is planning a Pokémon themed night.

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103  
104 ***Chunky's Movie Night***

105 Francis explained that they can rent the movie theater and show an "old" movie, meaning not  
106 currently being shown in theaters, for \$99. They must have at least 30 guests in attendance and  
107 people will pay for their own food. Francis is hoping to do this during February vacation week.

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109 ***Kids' Coding Program***

110 Held at the library, with a dozen kids signed up already.

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114 **Strategic Plan for Recreation (1-year, 5-year, 10-year)**

115 Francis explained her long-term goals for the Recreation Department.

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117 ***1-Year Goals (2024-2025)***

118 -5% rise in participation

119 -Playground equipment replaced at Miller Field

120 Sharpe added to redo the steps at Seely Beach, and Francis said she will find out about redoing the  
121 roof at Seely Beach, as well.

122  
123 ***5-Year Goals (2024-2029)***

124 -Completion of pavilion

125 -Possible paving of parking lots at Rec Building and Miller field.

126 Sharpe said the ARPA money will run out before the end of this time period. Members agreed to get  
127 the pavilion done within the next 2 years, and plan to discuss details at the next meeting. Members  
128 discussed using crushed asphalt for paving.

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130 ***10-Year Goals (2024-2034)***

131 -Completion of redoing playgrounds at Rec Building and Miller field, both ADA accessible.

132 -Babe Ruth field added to Rec Building fields.

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135 ***Discussion of old business begins.***

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138 ***Magic Show Update***

139 Francis said the magic show went great and has heard good feedback.

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142 Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn.

143 ***Motion By:*** Blaisdell

144 ***Seconded By:*** Hudgins

145 ***In Favor:*** All

146 ***Motion passes unanimously.***

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155 Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

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157 Next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2024.

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161 **Submitted By:**

162

163 *Jessica Manning*

164

165 Jessica Manning

166 Recording Secretary