

SANDOWN RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES 09-04-19

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The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Chairman George Blaisdell. In attendance were Mr. Blaisdell; John Donahue and Darren Hudgins, ex officio. Also present was Recreation Director Deb Brown.

A motion to accept the minutes of 06-11-19 was made by Mr. Hudgins and seconded by Mr. Donahue. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Brown presented members with requisitions forms for signature. These included a request to pay the Town of Sandown the amount of \$11,889.00 which was the amount expended under the payroll line of the Summer Program Budget 4520.37.120 and represented 100 percent of coverage returned to the town, for the 2019 payroll line for the co-coordinator's payroll. Other forms included payment to instructors from fees paid by participants.

Mrs. Brown gave a report on the Summer Recreation Program which had 165 participants. Eight counselor-in-training participants took part over the course of the summer. This is the first year that staff, except for the 2 co-coordinators, was paid out of the Revolving Fund. Staff had always been paid through the town budget with the Commission reimbursing the town for the entire cost of payroll.

Consultation with NH Municipal had taken place in the spring. NHMA felt it did not want to see payroll come from the Revolving Fund stating it would be a large concern if payroll wasn't met by fees paid, the liability would still be on the town for funds that had not been budgeted for. An historic look back showed the recreation dept. has always been able to turn back the cost of payroll, and sometimes more, to the Town.

Mrs. Brown then polled members of the New Hampshire Parks and Recreation Association, of which she is a member, and found that, from those who responded, 50 percent had been paying summer staff from within the regular town budget and 50 percent were doing payroll from Revolving Fund. Commission members agreed it would approach the BOS to let it know they would remove funding the payroll line from the regular budget and instead place payroll to come from the Revolving Fund. Mrs. Brown had spoken with former Finance Director Cheryl Eastman who provided information that this would be handled the same way that private police details are done, and it would be a 'money-in/money out' solution which would not be difficult for her to set up.

With a 2<sup>nd</sup> default budget in 2019 the possibility of removing most of the payroll from the budget was discussed in the spring with the Board of Selectmen and removed at the suggestion of the Commission.

The situation with the feasibility of continuing to use commercial canopies for the much-needed shade at both the school and recreation building has been frustrating. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last week of the

program a dangerous situation arose when a storm with very high winds came out of nowhere and left little time to get campers and staff inside the building. Mr. Donovan and Mr. Bonnell, summer program coordinator and supervisor, made a strong effort to keep one of the canopies from ripping free and going airborne. All staff were forced to run to the parking lot to move their vehicles for fear the canopy and frame would go sailing and wipe out their cars.

It quickly became apparent that Mr. Donovan and Mr. Bonnell needed to be called away from the situation as the canopy had become uprooted with the potential for causing them physical harm. Mrs. Brown expressed frustration with this being a constant recurrence over the past years. The program cannot operate without appropriate shade and a more permanent solution needs to be found prior to next summer, at least at the recreation building where the wind is very strong due to the open nature of the property. She has approached a town resident with design expertise, and he has declined the request to design a structure stating it needs engineering plans to insure it will stand up to winds.

Mr. Hudgins had reached out to a local lumber yard regarding design and they do not provide that service. An email and phone call were made to Morton Buildings and they have not been heard back from. Mrs. Brown will continue to pursue options.

Openings recreation commission members: Two potential members had expressed interest. One decided they would not have time to devote and the other person has been contacted several times, but no response received.

Upcoming activities include Senior BBQ with the recreation departments of Plaistow and Atkinson; Ballroom; Yoga; Senior Exercise classes; Senior Fall Trip; pre-school playgroup and the possibility for after school activity depending on staffing and space availability. The soccer season with TYSL begins this week on the field at Garvey and fall baseball is getting underway at Miller Field.

The Commission is still in need of a recording secretary.

The next meeting should take place on October 02, 2019.

Mrs. Brown informed the Commission she will be on vacation beginning September 30<sup>th</sup> and returning to the office on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>. She is working to set up some coverage for rentals and other urgent needs that may arise.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Brown  
Temporary Minutes Taker