

Lee Recreation Commission

7:00 pm May 3, 2010

Lee Safety Complex

Present: Geoff Carlton, Dawn Genes, Cynthia McClain, Sylvio Theriault, Dave Young, and Frank DeRocchi. Phil Sanborn arrived at 8 pm.

Minutes from April Meeting were read. Sylvio Theriault made a motion, Dave Young seconded to approve minutes.

Celebrate Earth Day at Little River Park

The day was a big success! Thirty three people came to help on that wonderfully sunny day. Sylvio Theriault had trails broken up into three parts and sent volunteers out to these three areas. Randy Stevens had come in prior to the event with a chain saw to cut up the large downed trees. Volunteers helped to move the cut logs out of the way. In addition to the people from Lee who volunteered, Dave Luzcek brought four co-workers from the Coast Guard who put their muscles to work. A second group planted flowers at the entrance and a third group erected a Little River Park sign that Geoff Carlton routed.

On the same day, Parker Allen worked behind the dugouts at the Town Field to clean up leaves.

Easter Egg Hunt

Egg hunt bills need turned in if you have them.

Fishing Derby

The Fishing Derby is this coming Saturday, May 8. Concern about if enough people know about the event. Since we cannot put signs up at the usual places this year we don't have as much publicity as usual. Frank DeRocchi suggested we use metal frames announcing the Fishing Derby might be used next year. Mark Kustra can produce these for a minimal cost.

A thank you letter needs to be sent to the Stevens Family for use of their property for the Fishing Derby. Next year, a formal request to use their property needs to happen well in advance. A thank you on the Town website also needs to happen.

Need prize money donated for biggest fish, first fish, etc.

Are port-a-potties lined up? Not yet. Must happen immediately. Dave Young will contact John Shea to see if he can get one there. ORYA said they have a good arrangement with a company at a reasonable price if needed.

Donation For River Appreciation

The Lamprey River Advisory Committee presented the Friends of Lee Recreation with a check for \$1,000 to support activities that will help kids and parents have access to Little River and for all public to have a greater appreciation for the resources of the river. Suggestions for use of the monies include purchasing fish for the Fishing Derby, handicap access trails down near the river, etc.

ORYA

Nick Scuderi, representing ORYA, requested use of Stevens Field through October. He recommends aeration, and a fall planting of winter rye with sun and shade mix. They have had success with this method. ORYA will aerate in May and again in the fall. Stevens Field would be off-line in the spring of 2011. Flagg Hill may not be available after June 25. If Flagg Hill is still available in the fall then Stevens Field could come off-line this fall.

Town Field is also heavily used by baseball and also by the school. The after school program also uses the field. Town Field needs some aeration and overseeding also. The aerator used is owned by Frank Reinhold. Some aeration and broadcast overseeding took place several years ago but it needs done again.

ORYA was asked to send a written request for use of Town of Lee fields prior to the seasons.

The biggest recreation needs from ORYA perspective is for gym space and rectangular fields. During the winter all the basketball programs don't have the practice time that they would like. Every minute is used.

Dave Young asked Nick if ORYA is aware of any grant possibilities for creating the turf grass field at Little River Park. Nick said that they are keeping their eyes open for this.

Organic Fertilizer

Geoff talked with Cock-A- Doodle-Do and will allow us to purchase by the ton at cost (\$400) and we could use this at Little River Park and at Stevens Field and other locations. One of their soil scientists has taken a sample at the park. Dave Young asked if grants are possible for this? Stan Barker said the Nonesuch golf course in Maine along the Nonesuch River is using this and their grass is phenomenal.

Little River Park

The rock purchased from Hartman Enterprises will be moved, measured and stockpiled. The material will be stored in the outfield of the proposed next baseball field. Since the biggest need for field space is for rectangular fields, the push is on for the multipurpose turf-grass field.

The irrigation system was started up for the year this morning. Contact was made with Bob Sherwood about overseeding some of the bare areas. Phil's generator is not strong enough to handle the work. Sylvio Theriault offers the use of his if Lee Recreation pays the gas. Phil made some phone calls about renting one. The diesel engines don't use much fuel but the gas ones do. The rpms is the key to the consumption of fuel. Lee Recreation could rent a decent size generator 30 KW unit for five months for a price of \$3,600.

If the town is looking to have a generator as a back-up power source this could serve both purposes. This could work especially well since the Park needs it in the summer and the Town would most likely need it during the winter. A 10KW unit might cost \$6,000. Multi-fuel units cost more. One that uses off-road diesel would be the least fuel cost. Chris Buslovich is looking into this for the Town.

Phil Sanborn will call the Union Hall at the Sugar Shack to see when they might possibly provide power to the site. They offered to do this pro bono as a training exercise.

A lawn mower is needed at the park. Randy Stevens had some potential money in his accounts. Is there money to purchase one that Randy would maintain? Randy recommends a “zero turn” mover. \$3,500 to \$8,000 is needed. Randy prefers John Deere. A 60 inch mower can support a bagger but a 72 inch will not. If mowed often enough a bagger would not be needed but it would be nice for the infield. Randy only has a 48 inch mower now that he uses at the cemetery. Just over \$5,700 is available in the revolving account to be spent in 2010. Up to \$1,000 was previously approved for the Fishing Derby and about \$400 in bills to be paid for the Egg Hunt, leaving enough money to purchase a lawn mower with.

\$10,700 is available for the backstop, culvert work, skid work, etc. from the money taken from the Recreation Trust Fund via warrant articles in March of 2008 and 2009 for construction of the deceleration land and other development at Little River Park.

Fall baseball will be available at the end of July.

Dawn Genes met with David Lee of Northeast Passage. This organization operates out of UNH and assists with access equipment and training for handicap individuals. They walked the park and discussed ways to make the park more universally accessible. Mr. Lee had some recommendations.

Trail Recommendations

- Trails should be a minimum of 40 inches wide.
- The trail needs to be level from side to side to prevent tip-overs.
- The surface must be firm. No mulch, no gravel or any soft surface that wheels do not roll well in. Too soft of a trail is a hazard. Stone dust is okay as it packs. The natural surface that is along the top bank parallel to Lee Hill Road is perfect.
- Grades should be 8% or less. Grades up to 8% should be short sections only.

Other Suggestions:

- Provide a viewing deck off the promontory point overlooking the proposed Little league field. Include a picnic table in this area as a destination point.
- Off of Lee Hill Road – create 2 handicap parking spaces plus 2 more for friends to come along.
- Wetlands boardwalk near the spring. ADA code says 1:12 grade is preferable. Maximum 30 foot run before needing a breaking area.
- Students at the UNH engineering school might be available for a design as a project. Would need an abstract of what product is requested in order to get interest.

Discussion on purchasing a plan from Natural Playgrounds in Concord. A call was made to this firm today to request a quote for a plan.

Dawn Genes called Lauren Chase Rowell to ask her to come provide a new planting plan for the park that works with our final layout. She can also provide detailed information that can be park of a trail guide.

Frank DeRocci asked what winter activities are planned at Little River Park. We would like to create an ice skating spot in the location where the future pavilion will go. Frank said the Fire Department could help with flooding the form. Sledding and cross country skiing are always available. spoke.

Other Business:

Selectman DeRocchi said he is happy and excited about the work that the Recreation Commission is doing. "You have been running hard and running fast." He encouraged us to keep up with the paper work and documentation. This park is something that is useable by all in town and this is exciting. We are all invited to Thursday's volunteer night this Thursday at the Grange Hall. Frank wants to have a "Lee Pride Day" in late September, early October. Tie into Lee Safety Day, Agriculture Day, pot-luck supper, etc. This will go nicely with the Recreation Commission's plans to host the 3rd Annual Little River Fest.

The land known as Noble Hill Estates is now owned by the Town as of today. This could be another area for recreation such as cross country skiing and trails. The water quality of the pond is questionable.

Frank DeRocchi reminded the Recreation Commission that meeting minutes must be sent to Chris Buslovich within five days of each meeting. Hard copies of meeting minutes go to Dawn Hayes.

Stan Barker showed the commission members choices for new face on the Lee NH Recreation website. <http://www.leenhrec.org/>

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Next meeting June 7, 2010.