

Lyme Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes  
January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Lyme Center Academy Building  
6:00pm  
Approved: March 1, 2010

Commission Members Present: Robert Couture, Dina Cutting, Paul Sansone, Steve Small, Tom Yurkosky, and Peter Mulvihill (alternate/voting member for meeting).

Public: Simon Carr

The minutes of the December 28, 2009 meeting were approved with no changes.

Financial Update: Steve Small reviewed the financial report ending December, 2009. He noted a significant loss in revenue this year in regards to the basketball program. This was attributed to a combination of an overall low number of participants, and a higher percentage of players at the 5-6 and 7-8 levels. These levels incur more expenses, particularly with regards to referee fees. There was discussion among the members about methods to subsidize some of the athletic programs and raising fees to increase revenue. In particular, Steve Small noted that fees for Softball should be considered for an increase as we now have a better understanding of the expenses involved. Ultimately, the Commission agreed unanimously to increase the fees for the following programs (per participant):

\$40.00	Basketball
\$35.00	Softball
\$25.00	Soccer
\$20.00	Baseball (K-3, non-little league participants)

In addition, Steve Small provided an update on the ski program. He noted the increase this year in the number of snowboarders. This has resulted in an increase in expenses related to instructor fees. Specifically, of the 27 snowboarders enrolled, 13 require instruction. As there were no volunteer instructors for snowboarding available, the program has utilized the Dartmouth Skiway instructors at a rate of \$60.00 per hour per instructor. Overall, the ski program has been able to cover this expense. Steve was simply informing the Commission of this new development for future reference.

Late Fees: Steve Small voiced the difficulty related to late registration of participants, particularly in regards to the ski program. He mentioned that specifically for the ski program, there is a need for adequate advance notice of the specific number of ski program participants as well as level of ability. The reason for this has to do with arranging for ski and snowboard instruction. Those choosing to register after the specified deadlines make this process more difficult. Discussion then ensued relating to whether or not to impose a late fee for those registering beyond the deadline. This discussion was related specifically to the ski program. Registering late to any of the remaining Recreation programs was determined to not impose any significant difficulty. As for assigning a late fee to the ski program, it was noted that historically this has not been structured within in the Lyme Recreation programs. Peter Mulvihill noted the logistical difficulty related to enforcing a late fee. Robert Couture shared some success with imposing and enforcing late fees with other programs he is involved with. The possibility was raised about alerting people about imposing late fees with the initial registration forms, with the hope that this action would be enough to motivate most participants to register on time. Whether or not to actually enforce a late fee on those who still register beyond the deadline was not decided.

Withdrawal from Basketball Program: Dina Cutting reiterated what has been previously expressed in prior communications that both of their children were very dissatisfied with their experience in this year's basketball program. Both children were not happy with what has been perceived as a significant lack of playing time during the games, compared to the other participants on their respective teams. Both parents had expressed their dissatisfaction over what they believe has been an excessive emphasis on winning by the coaching staffs for both of their children's teams (the 5-6 and 7-8 boys). Ultimately, all Recreation Commission members present voted unanimously to reimburse the family the fees paid for both of their children's participation in the basketball program.

Bike/Walking Path Update: Dina Cutting noted the first meeting of this subcommittee has been scheduled for February 7, 2010. Peter Mulvihill has performed a preliminary investigation, and expressed concern that this project may require major involvement from several parties and consume significant resources from the town. He strongly encouraged early participation from a member of the Conservation Commission, and preferably someone in a position of relative authority. Dina Cutting mentioned she could consider appealing to the Conservation Commission to have a member present at the upcoming February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Pete Mulvihill also mentioned the possibility of personally contacting a member of the Conservation Commission, requesting that this person seriously consider participating on this subcommittee.

Department of Environmental Safety (DES) and Easement Language Update: Discussion ensued over a recent e-mail from Lori Sumner at the DES stating, "DES does not agree with easement language that could cause the water level of Post Pond to be manipulated." Pete Mulvihill, Robert Couture, and Tom Yurkosky all expressed surprise and concern over what they believe is a change in the sentiment of the DES regarding the easement language. Dina Cutting and Simon Carr also expressed their concern, though were emphatic that the main issue with the DES is the change in wording of the easement language, and not the basic idea of the easement itself. The possibility was also raised that perhaps Lori Sumner from the DES was not adequately familiar with the water release policy regarding Post Pond. Dina Cutting and Simon Carr both suggested that a meeting including several of the involved parties would be helpful and was being arranged. The actual date for this meeting had not yet been arranged.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Sansone