

Minutes to Lyme Recreation Commission
Meeting on
March 1, 2010

Approved: April 26, 2010

In attendance

Dina Cutting, Chairperson, Tom Yurkosky, Robert Couture, Peter Mulvihill (alternate), Steve Small, Athletic Director, Simon Carr, Selectboard Chair

Minutes

Recreation Commission reviewed and approved circulated draft of the minutes of last month's regularly scheduled meeting.

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Athletic Director Report

Recreation Commission approved Steve Small's operating report on the 2009/2010 winter sports program. Steve Small reported on preliminary sign-ups for the upcoming baseball and softball seasons. The RC approved Steve Small previously proposed increase in the 7/8 baseball fees of \$38 per player (with inclusion of rented jersey), plus a \$3 per jersey rental charge. Fees for 4-6th grades were moved to \$25 per player plus \$8 for purchased jerseys (t-shirts).

Steve Small reported the enlistment of a new summer soccer vendor to replace Play Soccer. Challenger Soccer will run camps in the summer of 2010. Challenger offers better program promotion, better instruction (particularly for older players), better player recruitment, improved coaching instruction and provides players balls, all for comparable economics of those of Play Soccer.

Chase Permit

The RC then began discussion of the Town's pending Dredge and Fill Permit for Chase Park. Simon Carr briefed the RC on his impressions of the early February meeting with the NH DES in Concord. RC members were made aware of the current opposition by both the NH DES and the Upper Valley Land Trust to the proposed rider language inserted into the latest draft of the Chaffee Easement.

Simon Carr expressed some skepticism concerning the prospects of any administrative appeal of the Town's proposed wetlands mitigation plan with the DES keeping the language in the Chaffee Easement unchanged, citing the issue of lapsed appeal time. RC members acknowledged the potential for additional costs should the Town drop the option of using Chaffee as a mitigation solution and instead consider an alternative Town owned parcel. Such a strategy would involve a new survey, a year of delay due to the need for another Town meeting and the costs of new DES easement and UVLT submissions. Fortunately, Lyme Dredge and Fill Permit will still be valid even with a different wetlands mitigation plan.

Given all of these additional costs, the RC wished to assure that all possibilities concerning the Chaffee mitigation plan were fully exhausted. Following a discussion,

Lyme's Selectboard Chairman and the RC agreed to enlist the Town's attorney to look further into a number of questions/ issues: 1) Alternate, less water-level-explicit language in a revised Chaffee easement 2) The tolling of new DES administrative appeal deadlines with new easement submissions by Lyme 3) The interplay between Lyme's statutory rights under RSA 210:9 and its self-imposed restrictions under the proposed Chaffee easement.

Submission by Lyme's Conservation Commission

Chairperson Cutting circulated copies of Lyme Conservation Commission's last meeting with a draft date of March 1. Members reviewed the minutes and acknowledged the gesture of support by the CC for the Chase project contained therein. RC members agreed to consider the enlisting of the CC's support for the Chase Project and generally were open to moving discussions further along.

Alternative Mitigation Plans for Chase

The RC discussed Lyme's ownership of other properties which could potentially act as conserved lands to satisfy the DES' requirement for substitution of jurisdictional wetlands in Chase. These parcels include: 1) approximately 13 acres on the southeast of Post Pond, 2) a wetlands parcel within the Lyme Town Forest, 3) an 8.8 acre parcel along Clay Brook north of North Thetford Road which might be packaged with a 3 acre parcel by the Post Pond Boat landing. All parcels are within the Trout Brook/Clay Brook watershed. To pursue these, the RC discussed the need for Selectmen support, a warrant article vote, a new survey, a careful legal review of the deed and title to assure no DES objections. The RC also discussed the logic of early CC and UVLT involvement in such a project and the need for a clear delineation of Instrument Requirements under the NH DES jurisdictional wetlands regulations. The RC believed that the Town should at minimum prepare a white paper on all these issues before meeting with the DES and ideally seek to have DES personnel visit the site before formal submissions are made. Such visits are not unprecedented.

Update to the Town and Donors

The RC believed that an update to the Town and the donors on the Chase project is in order. The RC will attempt to take that issue up at its next scheduled meeting in late March. It was expected that such an update might be accomplished with a mailing or a posting on the Listserv or the Town website.

Chase Sub-commission

Due to the expanding complexity of the Chase project, the RC agreed to create a three member sub-commission to organize and prepare data for the full RC to act on. RC members enlisted in the sub-commission include Chairperson Cutting, member Yurkosky and alternate Mulvihill. The so-called Chase Sub-Commission shall have its first meeting March 10 at 5:30 at the Town Offices.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Mulvihill, RC alternate