

North Stonington Recreation Commission
October 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 6:15 pm with Commissioners Taylor, McCord, Welborn, Rusich, and Perkins. Director John Hines was present. Erin Comeau stayed for the entire meeting and Marc Tate was present for a short time at the beginning of the meeting.

New Commissioners – Erin Comeau from North Stonington was introduced to the commissioners and told the group a little about herself. Erin is interested in joining the Rec Commission Board. All the commissioners agreed and welcomed her.

Marc Tate then spoke to the group about the recent high charges from AT&T for phone bills. He explained that those will be typical charges and that there are options to consider to reduce the monthly bill. One option is to switch from a land line to a cell phone, which would require a new phone number. The second option is to switch to Comcast for the land line. This was the choice selected by the commissioners. Marc will put together the work order to get the change made.

Public Comments – There was a letter from someone noting that the swings at the rec field should include some seats that have a strap bottom and that the swings are too high for young children. Commissioner Perkins volunteered to check the swings at the rec field for height and to survey the types of swings.

September – A motion was made by Comm. Taylor to accept the minutes. This was approved.

Financial Report – Financial Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Comm. Taylor to accept the minutes.

Old Business

1. The cost to replace the handicap swing at the rec field is \$737. The commissioners discussed the best course of action, concerned that replacing the swing would just lead to damage again in the future. Since there is already a handicap swing available, one option would be to replace the blue handicap swing with a strap swing. This topic to be further discussed at the November meeting after the green swing is inspected to see if it is large enough and has all the straps.
2. Any modifications to the softball field have been deferred to the spring. Player safety is a concern, but since this item is not currently in the budget, it will need to wait until funds are available. There is an 8 foot fence available for use that could be installed by town personnel. The NSLL Softball representatives will follow up in the spring with the town selectmen.
3. The first Lions' Locker Room was held on September 26. It will open again on the last Saturday in October from 9:30 to 11:30. Comm. Welborn will arrange for Samantha White and Bridget Raggon to run the locker room again. The location will be the rec field.
4. North Stonington Christian Academy staff have been using the rec field for soccer, although they have not yet donated a case of paint for lines. John Hines will remind them of their agreement to provide paint as part of their use of the field.

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

New Business

1. New programs are being considered for the Winter Rec Commission brochure, including beading for adults, chess for kids (expanded grades), pottery (with Sue Starr in the spring), a beer brewing class, and First Tee (a golf program for young children). The golf program will wait for spring, and a location for the beer brewing class needs to be determined. Comm. Perkins will check with NS Fire Station personnel to see if it would be possible to use the fire house for the beer brewing class.
2. Fall soccer is well under way. There are 104 kids playing soccer, which is about the same number as Fall 2012. It continues to be challenging to find referees for the Bantam and Juniors games. There are more golfers registered this fall than ever before, and there are 20 children signed up for the basketball clinic which begins October 9. It is expected that additional students will sign up for the basketball clinic on the first night. Yoga, Pilates, and Dance are all underway. Fall Tennis has been very popular. It would be nice if there could be a program in the spring. This should be discussed with Emily Hayes to see if should could coach a class in the spring.
3. Erin Comeau has joined the Rec Commission. Additional commissioners are needed. Comm. McCord will ask Damian Robert if he would be interested, and Comm. Welborn will ask Brian Boscoe if he is interested in joining the commission. John Hines will determine that maximum number of commissioners permitted on the board.
4. The Halloween Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, October 26 at 6:00 and 6:30 pm.
 - John Hines will make sure flyers are distributed through the school.
 - Children are reminded to bring flashlights, although John will order approximately 3 dozen flashlights for the hunt.
 - Comm. Rusich will pick up the donuts and coffee and Comm. Taylor will get 9 gallons of cider from Clyde's.
 - Comm. Welborn will make sure the eggs are filled with candy prior to the hunt.
 - John Hines will check on the lights to see if it is possible to override the light timer for that evening.
5. A discussion about summer counselors for 2014 was tabled to the November meeting.
6. Comm. Comeau volunteered to make a sign for the Rec Field that states that walking track is 0.2 miles long.
7. Pizza parties for Fall Soccer players will be at 6 pm on November 6 and November 7 at the multipurpose room.
8. Comm. Rusich reminded everyone that we need to start planning for the Spring Outdoor Expo. This will be discussed further at the next meeting, perhaps setting a date so that canoes/kayaks can be rented for the expo.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.