

Sandown Recreation Commission Meeting  
April 4, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron DuLong at 6:37 p.m. Members present were: George Blaisdell, Steve Brown, Ron DuLong, and Tom Tombarello, ex-officio member from the Board of Selectmen. Also present was Deb Brown, Recreation Director.

The minutes of March 21, 2012 were reviewed.

It was pointed out that on Page 5, Line 209, Water Country tickets, the price of the discounted tickets is not yet set, but they would be “about” \$20.00,

George Blaisdell made a motion to accept the minutes, as amended.

Steve Brown seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion

The vote was 3 in favor, and 1 abstention (Tom Tombarello).

Mrs. Brown stated that Tylor Beaulieu (Eagle Scout candidate) would not be able to attend tonight, and it was suggested that he come to the next meeting to up-date his project.

Mrs. Brown reported that the recreation facilities would be opening up – the leagues are gearing up, and the fields are being made ready. Miller Field is just about ready to open – they are practicing there tonight. The Baseball Association was opened last weekend; the Public Works Department was there today (filling potholes, cutting brush, and cleaning up trash).

Mrs. Brown met with Auger Property Maintenance to discuss the various areas to be mowed.

Mr. DuLong met with Auger this morning (Marty). Marty asked if there was a spot to drop the clippings instead of taking them away (good for mulch). Mr. DuLong asked if anyone had any suggestions. This will be reviewed at the next meeting. Mrs. Brown stated that they will also be dethatching the fields.

Mrs. Brown stated that, per conversations with Auger, due to the early mild season, there may be a need for additional mowings this summer. This will need to be closely watched this year.

Regarding Miller Field, Mrs. Brown noted that the water has not yet been turned on. The Baseball Association likes to have this available for the players. Mr. DuLong will have the water turned on and flushed out tomorrow. Arrangements will be made with the Health Department to have the water tested.

Mrs. Brown has received an e-mail from the gentleman who quoted on repairing the skate park. The lowest price he submitted was \$2700. He suggested that for this price, he could replace the Skatelite with Ramp Armor (which he says is the same as Skatelite); fix the top sheet of the quarter pike and railing, and repair any rotten spots. To add sheet metal on the bottom of the transition would be \$400 more. Mrs. Brown asked if the Commission wanted to proceed with repairing the skate park or not. The budget included \$1118 for four sheets of Skatelite. It appears that more sheets have deteriorated since the last time this was looked at.

Mr. Brown stated that after looking at it with Ben, he did not want to spend a dollar on it. He viewed trash, damage, and graffiti at the site, and did not feel this project deserved a \$3000  
Sandown Recreation Commission Meeting  
April 4, 2012  
Page 2

expenditure. George Blaisdell commented that he knows of kids who use the skate park. He agreed with Mr. Brown about the expenditure, but felt that if we did not repair the park, we should get rid of it. Mrs. Brown stated that the reason the park was installed was to provide a place away from the parking lot for kids to play. This solved one problem, but now presents another. She further stated that she believes that the skate park now is not safe, and does feel that people should not be using it. She suggested that caution tapes should be set up, with signs that state "stay off until repaired." Mr. Blaisdell stated that he felt this is a good outlet for kids, but did not want to spend \$3,000-4000. Mr. Brown asked if it were possible to purchase the materials and have a volunteer group do the installation. He would be in favor of repairing the park as inexpensively as possible. Mrs. Brown was instructed to investigate the purchase of "Ramp Armor", and to post the caution signs. Tom Tombarello and Ron DuLong will talk to the Police Dept. regarding patrolling the site.

Mr. Tombarello stated that he was thrilled to have been appointed as an ex-officio member of the Recreation Committee. He was welcomed by the rest of the Commission.

Mrs. Brown reported that the playgrounds had been inspected and parking reports done last May. One of the safety items noted was a need to relocate the porta-potty on lower C field. Ron DuLong has spoken with Leo Reynolds, President of the Baseball Association, reminding him of the need to move the post for the porta-potty. Mrs. Reynolds e-mailed Mrs. Brown stating that Mr. Reynolds was not able to get the post out, but if necessary a new post could be installed. He had spoken with George Blaisdell.

Mr. Blaisdell stated that he had looked at the site – behind big boulders and behind a fence. He did not see any difference between that location and the location of the porta-potty at the top of the hill, where people also park, and could easily back into it.

Mrs. Brown stated that the only written recommendation after the inspection was to move the porta-potty to the left side, facing the field, on the grass area. It is currently located near the gate, and vehicles will be passing through to access the parking area. It was also recommended that the left side facing the field (grass area) be designated "No Parking" and staked off and posted, to allow players and spectators to access the toilet.

Mr. Blaisdell explained that a 4 x 4 post encased in concrete was needed. If it were moved any farther from the gate, a key may be required to service the toilet.

Hans Nicolaisen stated that he has viewed the area and agrees with Mr. Blaisdell. There is a huge rock blocking the toilet, and if any car came near, the car would be wrecked. He felt that it would be a waste of time to move it.

Mr. DuLong agreed and stated that he believes LGC's concern is that a car may hit someone coming or going to the toilet.

Sandown Recreation Commission Meeting

April 4, 2012

Page 3

Mrs. Brown believes the concern is not in the porta-potty being hit, but that a child might open the door and run out into traffic.

Tom Tombarello asked if it would be safer moved to the left. Mr. DuLong stated that no matter which side it is on, children would be crossing traffic lanes.

Steve Brown asked if the toilet could be removed entirely, and use only the other one. Mr. Nicolaisen stated that he thought the usage would require two facilities. Mr. Brown then suggested putting two toilets on the same site on the hill.

Tom Tombarello said he would prefer moving the toilet in question to the left. Steve Brown stated he would rather move it to the top of the hill, next to the other one. George Blaisdell said he would rather leave it where it is, or move to the top of the hill. Ron DuLong agreed; but if it needed to be moved, would like to see it moved next to the concession stand. Mrs. Brown said she would rather see it moved to the left, where parents would still be able to see their children. George Blaisdell asked if it could just be turned so that it doesn't face traffic.

After further discussion, it was agreed to turn the toilet 90 degrees and see if this is better.

Mrs. Brown stated that she had received three letter of interest to fill the two open positions on the Recreation Commission: Michael Donovan, Hans Nicolaisen, and Ralph Millard. Mr. DuLong has called each of them and invited them to attend the meeting tonight. This was not an official interview and attendance was optional.

Mr. Brown said that the Commission had read the letters and know the backgrounds of the applicants. He made a motion to recommend the appointment of Michael Donovan, Sr. to a three-year term on the Recreation Commission.

Tom Tombarello seconded the motion

There was no further discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brown made a motion to recommend the appointment of Hans Nicolaisen to a three-year term on the Recreation Commission.

George Blaisdell seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Brown advised that these recommendations would be presented to the Board of Selectmen on Monday. If they are approved, Messrs. Donovan and Nicolaisen should see the town clerk to fill out proper paperwork and be sworn in.

After the decision of the Board of Selectmen, the Recreation Commission will send a letter to the other applicant expressing appreciation for his interest.

#### Sandown Recreation Commission Meeting

April 4, 2012

Page 4

Mr. Blaisdell asked if the Recreation Commission had alternate members. Mrs. Brown replied that there are no alternative members. A brief discussion ensued regarding the formation of the Recreation Commission in 1979, and bylaws issued since then.

Mrs. Brown explained that this question has come up before. The legal department (LGC) was contacted. They clarified that the Recreation Commission has five members, as determined by RSA 35. If the number of members needs to be increased or decreased, the Board of Selectmen should be notified. Mrs. Brown believes that the number of members would remain the same until the next town warrant.

Mr. Brown invited the prospective new members to the table. He explained that being a member of the Recreation Commission involves a lot of work outside the meetings (such as spreading chips in playground areas and attending recreation-sponsored events).

Mrs. Brown reported that she had given the highway department a requested list of items needing their assistance. They have already accomplished most of the items (installed sign, checked culverts, and assistance in installing swings). She is waiting to hear from the supplier regarding the installation of swings.

Mrs. Brown reported that the floors at the Garvey building are scheduled to be stripped and waxed on two consecutive Thursdays and Fridays (April 19, 20, 26, and 27). Nothing is scheduled at the building during those dates.

Mrs. Brown up-dated the status of the following programs:

The archery program started last week.

The Senior Moments program has tentatively been rescheduled for Thursday, May 17.

The senior Spring lunch still has openings. This is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18. The event is jointly planned with Plaistow, and will be held at the Garvey Center. Lunch will consist of: garden salad, Shepherd's pie, dessert and coffee. There will be a magic show after – all for \$5.00.

A spring bonnet contest is being planned.

The Garden Club had a program on Monday on bats. It was very well attended. Another event is scheduled for May 7 at 7:00 p.m. – “Five Herbs No Home Should Be Without” presented by Margie Gold and Ann Evangelista of the Rockingham Herb Society.

Mrs. Brown stated that she will be meeting with one of the Boy Scout leaders on Monday afternoon. They may be interested in running a concession stand during the TYSL season. There are a couple of Eagle Scout candidates who may be able to take this on as a fund raiser.

Mrs. Brown also noted that the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Health Fair will be held on Tuesday, April 24, at the West Running Brook Middle School in Derry from 9:30 to 1:30. This is open to all area seniors – free admission – complimentary lunch from 11:30 to 1:30. There will be door prizes, including a \$500 Walmart gift card. There will be over 90 health vendors. All attendees will receive a thermal zippered tote.

Mrs. Brown presented the Commission with forms for signature. She explained that for the first three months of the year, annual budgeted items do not have many expenditures, and through March 28, expenses were:

General Recreation Budget	9.6%
Building Operations	17.6%
Summer Recreation (special programs)	9.2%

Mr. Nicolaisen stated that he had contacted the asphalt person regarding the walkway at Miller Field. He will provide a quote.

Steve Brown commented that he felt that the Recreation Commission will now have an excellent group. Mr. DuLong said that Mr. Brown will be greatly missed.

Mr. Blaisdell asked if anyone had noticed the clay at B field at Miller. He stated that the mound is about twice the size it was last year. Mrs. Brown noted that the Baseball Field had this brought in. Mr. Blaisdell said that he understood, but that it was twice the size, and really needed to be moved, perhaps closer to the pitching net or behind the concession stand. Mrs. Brown stated that she was asked to have Kevin get the clay for C field. He could not get it, so the Baseball Association made their own arrangements to have it delivered. Mr. Blaisdell said there was another pile of clay at C field, which is quite a distance from the baseball diamond, and he did not foresee a problem in moving it behind the dumpster. This will be investigated and discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Utman  
Recording Secretary