

Sandown Recreation Commission Meeting
August 10, 2012

A special meeting of the Sandown Recreation Commission was called to order at 5:50 p.m. by Chairman Ron DuLong. Members present were: George Blaisdell, Hans Nicolaisen, Ron DuLong, and Tom Tombarello, ex-officio member from the Board of Selectmen. Absent were Michael Donovan and Deb Brown, Recreation Director.

The meeting was called to finalize the Eagle Scout project by Tylor Beaulieu. Also present were Tim Robinson and Bob Turner, scout leaders.

Hans Nicolaisen explained that Tylor first came to the Recreation Commission about 2 years ago with his project. He came in later and discussed his project, and presented a sketch for a sign. The Commission asked him to come back with a more definitive recommendation for his sign and flagpole. The Commission had stated that they would prefer a fiberglass pole with an internal lanyard.

It was explained by the scout leaders that the objective of becoming an Eagle Scout is a learning process of becoming a leader: set out a plan, raise funds for the plan, and delegate work as a leader.

A discussion was held regarding the communications between Tylor and the Recreation Commission. The project had three phases:

The Flagpole: Commission requested fiberglass with internal lanyard;
Aluminum pole (used) installed with no extra concrete; no internal lanyard; poses safety problem due to wobbling.

The Sign
Area Beautification

The scout leaders stated that the project had not been completed according to the proposal, but that Tylor could request an extension.

Mr. DuLong mentioned that the materials and the sign do not belong to the Town of Sandown, so any liability is not on Sandown until the project is accepted. He stated that the flagpole needs to come down until the safety issue is resolved;

The consensus was that there would be no approval signature tonight from the Recreation Commission. The options for Tylor will be to get an extension. He will need to send a letter to the Boy Scout Council tonight on what needs to be done.

Mr. DuLong asked who officially owns the material. Bob Turner said that it is an Eagle Scout Project – assumes that the troop owns it, but will find out.

The scout leaders asked if the sign is acceptable. (yes)

The leaders asked if the flagpole would be acceptable if corrected. Mr. DuLong stated that the Commission had requested fiberglass, and an internal lanyard was really necessary. Mr. Robinson said that the reported estimate for fiberglass was \$350. Mr. Nicolaisen said that the ball field fiberglass flagpole was \$1800.

Tylor Beaulieu joined the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Ron DuLong summarized that this was a special meeting. Everyone is concerned as to where and how the project has gone. Questions have been raised in the last few minutes as to what we can do to rectify the shortcomings of the project. There are concerns by all about the flagpole, and the lack of “beautification” planting that should be included.

Mr. DuLong read an e-mail from member Michael Donovan regarding his concerns. Mr. Donovan had viewed the completed project on Thursday evening. Mr. Donovan’s summary stated that: there was a sign and flagpole which had been installed prior to Tylor’s 18th birthday. However, Mr. Donovan also said that the definition of an Eagle Scout includes: leadership, integrity, responsibility, and attention to detail. He felt that the sign was fine, but the flagpole is not acceptable.

Mr. Nicolaisen stated that Mr. Donovan had expressed most of his concerns. We are not here to decide if Tylor is able to earn Eagle Scout, but to decide if the project was performed as it was presented to us. He came to us about 2 years ago. To wait until the last minute and change things because time is running out is not acceptable: beautification, flagpole... It is not fair to the Recreation Commission to put them in this predicament. Mr. Nicolaisen stated that he did not feel Mr. Beaulieu delivered what was originally presented, other than the sign. There was a lack of communication with the Recreation Commission. Mr. Nicolaisen also stated that he has two Eagle Scouts, and knows how hard they worked on their projects; he did not feel that Tylor had put that type of effort into this project.

Mr. Nicolaisen asked Mr. Beaulieu how much money was raised for his project. Mr. Beaulieu replied \$1,230.49. The sign was \$350 and the balance expended was for posts, pole (\$550), and cement. Tylor said that the fiberglass pole was \$1500. Mr. DuLong interjected that the Commission had requested that Tylor come to them if he was short on funds or if there was anything they could help with.

Mr. Tombarello stated that he came on the Board on March of this year. A couple of things bothered him – communication about the sign – the flagpole was supposed to be fiberglass with internal lanyard – there is a big safety issue out there (wobbly) – and waiting until the 11th hour for approval is not a good idea.

George Blaisdell agreed with the previous comments of the members. His concern is with the beautification around the sign. Also the flagpole should come down – it is not anchored properly and too wobbly (and with the location near the playground, presents a safety hazard).

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Mr. DuLong repeated that the Commission had offered on a number of occasions to help, as with all Eagle Scout candidates.

Bob Turner stated that he had talked to Dave Roberts at the Daniel Webster Council. He offered a suggestion that an extension could be requested.

A brief recess was held to allow Tylor to discuss the extension possibility with the scout leaders.

Tylor decided that he would apply for the extension, and needed to know what was required for the flagpole. Mr. Nicolaisen said that it needed to be taken down. What the Commission would still prefer is a fiberglass pole with an internal lanyard, and that Recreation could help with funding. He also suggested trying to sell the aluminum pole on Craig's List.

Tylor said that he didn't think he could return the pole to the supplier, but will talk to him. Mr. Tombarello knows the supplier and offered to talk to him.

Tim Robinson stated that he would like to see the pole taken down this weekend; he also instructed Tylor to contact the pole supplier regarding return of the pole. He advised Tylor that he should obtain three quotes for a fiberglass pole.

Mr. Robinson also advised Tylor that he should finalize a "beautification" project. George Blaisdell asked if he planned to talk to the Garden Club. Tylor stated that he understood that future plans included a retaining wall in front of the recreation building. Mr. Robinson asked if he had considered bark mulch, or other plantings which could be moved. Mr. DuLong suggested that the Garden Club could make suggestions. He thought that bark mulch on both sides of the building would be an improvement, and perhaps shrubs could be planted around the sign.

George Blaisdell stated that the new cork board is leaking behind the glass. The sign needs to have something over the top to keep water out.

Tylor asked if there were any other concerns or improvements to his project.

Tim Robinson said that he would help Tylor write the request for extension tonight. He will strive for better communication. His objectives will be to have the project resolved within 2-3 weeks if the extension is approved. Bark mulch will be installed and the present flagpole will be removed this weekend. Tylor will talk to the Garden Club, and he will have flagpole quotes ready for the next meeting (next Wednesday, August 15).

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Mr. Robinson also asked Tylor to talk to Lou Saviano about where he purchased his flagpole. The Commission agreed to consider an aluminum pole if it had an internal lanyard and if the price was considerably lower than fiberglass.

Tylor asked about lighting concerns. Mr. DuLong stated that the Commission would take care of any lighting involved.

Mr. Robinson summarized what will be done. Tylor will send an e-mail to Dave Roberts tonight requesting an extension. This will be followed with a hard copy by regular mail, which Mr. Robinson will sign. If the Council should, upon review, want to talk to the Recreation Commission, who would be the contact? It was decided that Hans Nicolaisen would be the most knowledgeable about these projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Veronica Utman
Recording Secretary