

Sandown Recreation Commission
March 4, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Blaisdell at 6:35 p.m. Members present were: John Donahue, Terry Treanor, ex-officio, Veronica Utman, and George Blaisdell. Also present was Deb Brown, Recreation Director.

The February 3 minutes were reviewed.

Terry Treanor made a motion to accept the minutes as written.

George Blaisdell seconded the motion.

There was no discussion.

The motion carried, unanimously.

Mrs. Brown had letters of request for reappointment from John Donahue and Veronica Utman. While reappointments are normally made for three years, it was decided to suggest that these be staggered to provide more continuity to the Commission.

Mr. Blaisdell made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the appointment of John Donahue to a three-year term on the Recreation Commission.

Terry Treanor seconded the motion.

The motion carried, with three votes in favor and Mr. Donahue abstaining.

Mr. Blaisdell made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the appointment of Veronica Utman to a two-year term on the Recreation Commission.

Terry Treanor seconded the motion.

The motion carried, with three votes in favor and Ms. Utman abstaining.

Mrs. Brown presented authorization for payment forms – for programs that money has already been collected. This is to allocate fund to the proper accounts.

Vacation program payroll - \$690.61

Supply reimbursement to Cressa Bonnell - \$44.68

Walmart – supplies - \$41.62

Bus (tubing trip) - \$180.00

Mrs. Brown related that she had a great meeting with Plaistow and Atkinson Recreation Directors. They are planning future joint programs, including a St. Patrick's Day party with the Salem senior services, and a senior dance at the high school. Sandown will provide coffee and paper goods for the event.

Mrs. Brown has a thank-you letter for the refreshments provided by Recreation for the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Mrs. Brown reported on current events:

The February school vacation program was held last week

52
53 The after-school program was started this week.

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55 The archery program was cancelled. The few sign-ups were forwarded to the
56 Atkinson archery program.

57
58 The three towns are planning a family night for April vacation, looking into the
59 PAC to see what the policy is on letting us use the facility without cost. If this is
60 Possible, the three towns could share the entertainment costs. A joint program
61 is also being planned for July. For 2016 it is planned to work on the summer
62 programs together.

63
64 It is also hoped that Sandown could have more representation at the Vic Geary
65 Center. This is the regional senior center. Eighty towns pay into it, with Plaistow
66 carrying the bulk of the contribution. Each town has a representative, but we would
67 like to see more programs, and more publicity about the Center.

68
69 The adult paint program may be coming up in the near future.

70
71 Mrs. Brown noted that the town annual audit resulted in questions about the Phillips Pond Betterment
72 Fund. A clarification was presented:

73
74 The Town of Sandown Planning Board has a requirement for all developers in
75 Sandown – they must provide: an impact fee (school), other fees, AND they must
76 also provide a recreation facility with a development, OR an option agreed upon with
77 the Planning Board, which often ends up as a “donation” for recreation, in this case
78 being for the betterment of Phillips Pond, and under the jurisdiction of the Recreation
79 Department (there is a town beach at Phillips Pond). It was decided to keep the Phillips
80 Pond money separate from other recreation funds.

81
82 The Commission was joined by:

83
84 Lee Dube, Timberlane Youth Soccer League
85 Tim Archer
86 Pete Aliberti, Baseball League President, and
87 John Donahue, Babe Ruth League representative (and Commission member).

88
89 Mr. Dube (TYSL) forwarded an e-mail received from David White (who builds athletic fields). He has
90 received the test results from UNH on the soccer field soil. The nutrients and soil ph are good, and it is
91 good sandy loam. However, there are issues with the lack of a crown, causing slow drainage of the field,
92 and the soils are heavily compacted. Mr. White suggested a “shattercore aeration” (which has been
93 done).

94
95 Mrs. Brown noted that deep tine aeration has been done (shattercore) – she did not notice a difference in
96 the drainage.

100
101 Mr. White's second recommendation was to do deep core aeration and fill the cores with sand (which
102 allows the water to travel through the sand into the subgrade). This has not yet been done.
103

104 The third recommendation from Mr. White is to install a panel drainage system (trenching, panel drain
105 wrapped in fabric, and backfill with sand). This is the most costly and not recommended unless previous
106 recommendations did not work.
107

108 Mrs. Brown presented information from Tim Archer regarding a potential grant for the baseball field
109 expansion. She noted that this would need to be carefully reviewed. The Town of Sandown would be the
110 applicant (as landowner), and the details would need to be studied.
111

112 Mrs. Brown also suggested that the Commission needs to review how the field should be used, for
113 example:

114
115 Soccer starts in April (?) They have first priority on the field between...(x) date
116 and... (x) date
117

118 Baseball/Babe Ruth) starts later – last week of May – can be worked out. When they
119 are done.....practices.
120

121 Mrs. Brown stated that schedules could be accommodated, but Recreation has first priority. However,
122 the fields are usually quite available for sports.
123

124 A discussion was held regarding a potential grant and the detailed terms, the timing of application, and a
125 potential Town warrant article (....matching funds (?))
126

127 Mr. Donahue noted that TYSL was ready to make a move quickly to get the soccer field going, while the
128 Babe Ruth Association is not ready, except to say "yes, let's move forward ... to the point where we can
129 finally lay down the money and go". We are not at that point, but it is a goal. We have an engineer,
130 Todd Morey, who would do the baseball field at a reasonable price. When a final plan is reached for the
131 field, Mr. Morey will draw the plan for the Babe Ruth field.
132

133 A discussion ensued regarding the immediate plans for improving the field (drainage). Soccer plans to
134 move forward with the recommended procedures (but no recrown). It was felt that the sand backfill
135 should have a big impact.
136

137 The question was asked - if Baseball put an outfield on the present field, would it interfere with the soccer
138 plans for drainage improvement. The answer was no – it would actually be improving the baseball
139 outfield field in advance of its use.
140

141 Further discussions between soccer and baseball included: potential lines on the field; uneven surface of
142 field and divots (safety potential, especially for baseball player chasing fly ball). It appeared than any
143 maintenance done by soccer would not adversely affect any potential use of the field by baseball, but
144 further attention to creating a smooth surface may be necessary.

145 Sandown Recreation Commission Meeting
146 March 4, 2015
147 Page 4

148
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150 Mrs. Brown noted that David White will be contacting her regarding coordination with the spring clean-
151 up, dethatching, irrigation system, marking lines off.... Recreation will also need to have something in
152 writing from Soccer regarding responsibility for the costs. Mr. Blaisdell said he had no problem with TYSL
153 proceeding with their plans, as they seem to be low impact.

154

155 Mr. Aliberti stated that he felt Recreation should be updated monthly, and would like to be put on the
156 agenda – even for just 5 minutes. After discussion, it was suggested that another joint meeting be held
157 the first Wednesday in April.

158

159 The next Recreation meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2015. This will include a report by the Summer
160 Recreation staff, and will be held at the Rec. Center.

161

162 The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

163

164 Respectfully submitted,

165

166

167

168 Veronica Utman
169 Recording Secretary