

Sandown Recreation Commission  
April 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Blaisdell at 6:40 p.m. Members present were: John Donahue, Terry Treanor, ex-officio, and George Blaisdell. Also present was Deb Brown, Recreation Director. Absent was Veronica Utman.

The minutes of the March 18, 2015 meeting were reviewed. It was noted the Mr. Donahue's name was misspelled.

Mr. Blaisdell made a motion to approve the minutes, with the correction of Mr. Donahue's name. Mr. Treanor seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried, with Mr. Donahue abstaining.

The minutes of the March 18 non-public were reviewed by the Commission. Mr. Blaisdell made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended, regarding personal business. Mr. Treanor seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion and agreement NOT to seal the minutes. The motion carried, with Mr. Donahue abstaining.

At 7:00 p.m. the Old Home Day Committee joined the meeting (Anthony LaConti, Paula Gulla, Steve Brown, Erica Olsen, and Eric Olsen; Terry Treanor is also the Select Board liaison). The Committee has been considering dates for the 2015 Old Home Days celebration.

While in past years the celebration was primarily held at Central School, because the overall use of the school has not been decided, there will be no decision for use by Old Home Day until May, which is too late to make plans. They are asking if the Recreation area will be available on September 12.

A discussion was held regarding what type of activities will be held on the fields such as a stage for music, bounce houses, a climbing rock wall (and any possible damage to the fields). Also discussed was parking potential and traffic control.

Mrs. Brown noted that September 12 is a soccer-reserved date, and if this needs to be changed, there would need to be a substitute date provided (i.e. if it were the following day, would the field be cleared and in condition to use?).

Use of the actual Recreation building was discussed, with the probability that only authorized personnel would be allowed. If there is a scheduled use of the building, there would be supervision of the inside of the building at all times by OHD Committee.

Other subjects briefly discussed were: possible parade route, access by vendors to water, possible location of porta-potties, electrical connections, fireworks, and events on other nights.

Mrs. Brown announced that the wireless router is now available. The password is SandownRec.

Mrs. Brown reported that the mowing contractor viewed the fields on Monday. He noted that the soccer fields are OK as long as the wet areas are avoided. Miller fields are not ready. B Field is "mushy" and A and C fields are not as bad, but still not ready for play. Mrs. Brown also asked Ron DuLong to check the fields (as a second opinion). His response was: Field A – 5 to 7 more days, Fields B and C - 7 to 10 more days. Mr. Aliberti called today with information from his field advisor that A field is OK to play on, B field will be OK tomorrow, and C field is only wet in the outfield. He would like to start working on the B infield this weekend.

John Donahue viewed the fields and feels that: A field is fine; C field still needs to dry some; B field is a mess (it needs to dry a lot more). He noted that the Baseball field advisor suggested scraping an inch off B field immediately, loosening and packing back down, and then rolling with a little bit of Turface – and the infield should be fine in 3-5 days.

After discussion it was agreed that the Baseball Association could proceed with infield maintenance, but outfield conditioning would need to wait to avoid damage to the fields. Mrs. Brown noted that she would need to have waivers signed by those people doing maintenance on the fields.

Mrs. Brown brought up the subject of an emergency contact number for the alarm system. At the present time, her phone is the only one listed, and needs to stay on 24/7. Mr. Donahue will be the on-call person for this upcoming weekend on Sunday.

Mrs. Brown said that in the fall, there was an inquiry from the Baseball Association about lowering the age in the concession stand. It is currently at 16, and they would like to lower it. Previous discussions by the Commission did not result in a decision. A new request has come in that the Baseball Association would like to use a grill. Correspondence from Property Liability Trust (our insurance carrier) states that: with no grill or open flame, it is low risk concession stand (...and OK for lowering age); with a grill and open flame, it becomes a higher risk.

Mrs. Brown also check with the Fire Chief about the grill and about storing it inside the concession stand. His comments were: he would agree to it if the tank were disconnected and put in the other shed (that way he knows it has been shut off). Also, the Baseball Association would have to come up with a way to block off the area of the grill – the public could not have access to the grill area.

Mrs. Brown will make a list of the grill requirements, to include:

- Grill must be blocked off
- Adult only to operate grill
- Tank must be stored in other part of shed.

As far as lowering the age requirement in the concession stand, it was felt that the policy needs to be reviewed before a decision could be made. Mr. Donovan reported that the Baseball Commission had decided to use only adults for this season. Hopefully, for next season, the policy can be defined. The Commission agreed that, as long as only adults are operating it, the use of a grill will be OK this season. Mrs. Brown will put this in writing for the Baseball Association.

Mrs. Brown noted that operating the baseball field alarm system presented a problem last season. There were many phone calls from the alarm company to her. She then had to meet the Police Department at the ball field. This was caused by a baseball person entering either the softball shed or the concession stand, and setting off the alarm. She is requesting that the Baseball Association be responsible for responding to calls this season, and would like a list of three names, listed in order to call.

Mrs. Brown asked what is to be done about weekend coverage and the Rec. building – she cannot be responsible 7 days a week. She has been called two weekends to help unlock the door. The town custodian will be retiring and no longer available. She will be meeting with the Town Administrator to discuss various recreation needs. Mr. Blaisdell also suggested that Mr. Genuardo should be included in discussion of the custodial needs. Mrs. Brown also said that there are general maintenance needs at the rec. building and ball fields which will need attention (road repair, playground drainage..).

Mr. Donahue volunteered to remove the (unusable) scoreboard on A Field. Mrs. Brown will find out if this can be taken to the transfer station.

Mrs. Brown asked if the Commission wanted to commit to a two-year mowing contract with CBC Outdoor Services. The Commission agreed to two years.

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Utman  
Recording Secretary