

Approved March 2, 2016

Sandown Recreation Commission Meeting  
June 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Blaisdell at 6:45 p.m. Members present were: John Donahue, George Blaisdell, Veronica Utman, and Terry Treanor, ex-officio. Also present was Deb Brown, Recreation Director.

The minutes of the May 14 meeting were reviewed. It was suggested that the spelling of Mr. Donahue's name be corrected.

Mr. Trranor made a motion to accept the minutes, as corrected.

Mr. Blaisdell seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion.

The motion passed, with 3 in favor, and Ms. Utman abstaining.

The irrigation problem(s) was discussed. Mrs. Brown noted that there have been three issues at the Ed Garvey facility (broken heads...which have been replaced); at Miller Field the mowing contractor advised that the fields were burning. The new sod was dieing. Mr. DuLong immediately addressed the situation. However we currently have three situations going on:

B field - Right field – a head malfunctioning

Left field – two problems – cannot find one head; another not working correctly.

Bill McFadden, who supervised the repair work in the outfield, said that they did not bury any heads, but it appears that at some point in time a head has been buried. There also may be a problem with pressure.

Ms. Utman asked if the irrigation system should be included in future capital expenditure expenses.

Mrs. Brown noted that one of her lifeguards will be unavailable; she is advertising, but they are in short supply at this time. She has two full-timers who are recertifying.

Mrs. Brown reported that discount Water Country tickets will be available for \$32.00 each. The regular price is \$39.00. A portion of the discount will go to the Recreation Association for speakers/training.

The first aid course which Brian Chevalier offered to do, will be held June 22. Recertifications will be done in the morning, and certifications in the afternoon. There are a total of 12 participants.

Mrs. Brown presented req. for payment forms for ballroom dancing classes.

Mrs. Brown reported that she had recently completed the annual insurance inventory (property, sheds, etc.)

Mrs. Brown noted that the two picnic tables arrived and were assembled.

Sandown Recreation Commission Meeting  
June 3, 2015  
Page 2

At 7:10 the Baseball Association joined the meeting:

Gary Paradis  
Pete Aliberti  
John Donahue (also Rec. member)

Mr. Paradis reported that the Baseball Association have a surveyor, who can survey and produce a topographical map, at a price of \$1500. It will give us a base (solid) number of how much it is actually going to cost to put a Babe Ruth Field in.

Gary: Years ago, when it all started, we (the Field of Dreams) went to Conservation. They helped a lot. Many people donated their time – there was a survey done - they walked the potential sites with us. We didn't pursue these sites.

John: Todd Morey (they guy who will design it when all is said and done) came down with Tim and me; he shot lines. It will be necessary to get a topographical map.

Gary: I'll have to go back to what was done years ago and find out who did the original survey. I know they came out and spent a lot of time on this. If that guy is still there, maybe he would be willing to do this again for us. At that time Reed Road was the best site, but the first 40-60 feet was wet and would require culverts. This was too expensive, and the project was dropped.

Pete: We want to start it up again and put it out here behind the Rec. building, if it is feasible. You have your contacts to find out if this person will provide his services gratis. Tim has already done some leg work and has information.

Tim Archer joined the meeting.

Tim: I contacted a couple of survey companies. LaValle (Hampstead) replied. He said he has already surveyed B field, and other areas near here. He bills on actual time spent, not by project. Since it is for Recreation, he will do a survey and topographical map for \$1500.

Mrs. Brown noted that this area has already been surveyed, and will check to see if a topographical map may already exist.

Gary: I can reach out to Conservation to see if they can help.

Pete: And now the big question is, if we don't have a (Conservation) contact regarding the topographical survey, Sandown Baseball is coming to this meeting to see if Field of Dreams will assist with the bill for the \$1500 – (also asking the Rec. Comm. to do the same). We feel that this is why the Field of Dreams money is there, and we are going to eventually put a Babe Ruth field in – and need to find out how much fund raising we're going to have to do, to make sure this is done – how much help we're going to get.

Gary: I have spoken to Heather David (Field of Dreams treasurer). She is OK with writing a check. The problem (according to an attorney) is: if it is a multi-purpose field, we cannot designate the money. It has to be solely a Babe Ruth Field...that is what this money was raised for.

Ms. Utman asked if there was an original document specifying that any funds raised could only be used.....

Gary thought there probably was, but he was unaware of any. It was suggested that any stipulation may have referred to a Babe-Ruth-size only field. If so, this would not be a problem because Miller Field is used for other youth baseball divisions.

A discussion ensued as to the boundaries of the fields and the specific purposes of each field.

Mr. Donahue noted that this was discussed before. During the summer session, it could be a soccer field; during the baseball season, it would be a Babe Ruth Field. As Babe Ruth Director and coach, he was not concerned that the field would be dedicated to Babe Ruth during the baseball season.

Gary asked if there would be something in writing that Sandown Babe Ruth has first right of refusal to use of the field. He is still part of the Field of Dreams committee...

Mrs. Brown suggested that the attorney should be aware that Sandown Babe Ruth doesn't own the field – It is owned by the Town, so right of first refusal would be by whoever manages that facility. Right now, soccer is here two nights a week. They have their games on Saturday and are done by 2:30 p.m. There are four days a week when it could be used by Babe Ruth – or even at different times.

Gary: I understand. But I think what they need to know is that Sandown Babe Ruth is going to benefit from this field – before Timberlane soccer.

George B: Obviously we are going to work the schedule – they may overlap at points....soccer will be here in the morning and Babe Ruth will be here in the afternoon.

Mrs. Brown asked if Heather David may have original paperwork, and could she attend the next meeting. She asked if a letter from the Recreation Commission stating that these (Babe Ruth) funds would be used strictly to construct a Babe Ruth field – not for Little League or whatever.

Pete: We have started. Now we need to start looking for funds so we can get the ball rolling. We would like to do this in the next year or two.

Gary: Is the Baseball Association putting money into this proposed field?

John: Yes....but we are not sure how much it will cost.

Gary: Other than the Field of Dreams, where is the money coming from?

Mrs. Brown: Could be a number of places: a warrant article; grant money...

Sandown Recreation Commission Meeting

June 3, 2015

Page 4

Mrs. Brown will look into the existence of a topographical map.

Tim: We have an engineer who can help us out once you get that information for us. He can figure out the drawings, and a materials list made up, and what the cost will be.

John: We are assuming this is a contribution of funds that exist in Field of Dreams.

Gary: The figure is \$18,000. The original Field of Dreams people are now involved in other things and cannot focus on a Babe Ruth Field. If this goes forward, we believe this fund will help you get started.

Deb: Even if it is necessary to go to the town to request money, it would be more acceptable noting that there are funds to start, plus donated man hours....

Gary: If there is a materials list, I will help to raise funds (contact landscapers etc.). Paula Martin has been a big help – she has a contact in town who works for a company that supplies materials for the grounds at Fenway. He was willing to do what he could. John Donahue will contact Ms. Martin tomorrow. Gary Paradis will also check with Conservation tomorrow.

Pete: And if we fail with the Conservation engineer, can we go with the engineer Tim has contacted?

Deb: We need to be cautious about the timing of decisions – i.e. if the Field of Dreams funds turn out NOT to be available, a decision to proceed with an engineer may not be possible at this time.

The next Recreation meeting is scheduled for June 17. Baseball will follow-up on the discussed issues and inform Mrs. Brown, who will forward to the Commission, prior to the next meeting.

Mrs. Brown stated that the Fire Chief spoke to her the other day about parking at Miller Field. He noted that there was no room for an ambulance to get through, and was considering towing cars. Mr. Aliberti has spoken to the coaches and directors to be sure that the C field is kept open. He has also borrowed orange cones to place in no-parking zones.

Mr. Paradis noted that there has been much discussion over the years about expanding the road so that cars can pass. A brief discussion was held regarding ownership/title to the land needed to expand. Mr. Blaisdell reported that a title search is necessary to remedy the situation. Mrs. Brown has asked the Highway Department about cutting the growth on the right side of the road, and filling the potholes. She has not received a reply yet. However, Mrs. Brown pointed out that traffic there is very fast.

Mr. Paradis also asked if the overhanging trees could be trimmed behind the third-base dugout (soft ball – C – field). Mrs. Brown hoped that the new maintenance person would be able to help.

Mr. Aliberti asked if the sprinkler heads had been repaired. Mrs. Brown replied that it has been a continuing problem. The pressure has been turned up, and the time increased. It is still being worked on.

Baseball will be at the June 17 Recreation meeting – at 7:00 p.m.

Sandown Recreation Commission Meeting

June 3, 2015

Page 5

Mr. Paradis talked with Heather David regarding a guideline for the Field of Dreams field. She indicated that it is a Sandown Babe Ruth Field. If we can get something in writing that states it is a Sandown Babe Ruth Field, I would think that she could go to the attorney and explain that this is what the money was raised for.

Mrs. Brown pointed out that other things go on; there is a common boundary with other fields; but this would be a Sandown Babe Ruth Field. You will give us your schedule, and no one else will use the field during those times.

The baseball group left the meeting.

Mrs. Brown noted that she has a form from the Wage & Salary Committee for department heads to help with their research. This was briefly discussed and suggestions made.

Mrs. Brown stated that Ron DuLong is retiring tomorrow; it is not currently known when his replacement will be hired. There are things that need to be done in the Ed Garvey building (especially when the building is rented). Also there is not always someone in the building.

Mr. Traynor reported that there is a temporary person starting tomorrow (for cleaning). There may be a maintenance person assigned the task of floors, etc.

Mrs. Brown noted that there is a rental this weekend, and with summer program signups this week, it is likely that there will be a need for extra hours. She suggested that the Board of Selectmen be notified.

Mrs. Brown said that she should have the summer program trips lined up by next week. She will prepare requests for approval with estimated “up to” expenses for the trips.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Utman  
Recording Secretary