

Approved May 4, 2016

Sandown Recreation Commission
April 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Blaisdell at 7:03 p.m. Members present were: George Blaisdell, Veronica Utman, and Terry Treanor, ex-officio. Also present was Deb Brown, Parks and Recreation Director. Absent was John Donahue.

Pete Aliberti, Sandown Baseball (SBSA), joined the meeting.

There had been a misunderstanding between Baseball and the Recreation Commission regarding work about to be done on the baseball fields. Mr. Aliberti explained that Baseball would like to remove the brush on the hill behind the playground area so parents could supervise their younger children and still watch the baseball field. He thought that SBSA had permission to do whatever was needed to maintain the hill.

Mrs. Brown noted that she had reviewed all e-mails between Recreation and Baseball for the past year, and could find nothing in writing about the hill maintenance. If a casual conversation had been held regarding cutting brush back, it was just that. Also, whenever brush is cut back, waivers are required for anything where power tools are involved. Now there is a major project that Baseball would like to accomplish. Mrs. Brown said she does not have the authority make that type of decision – she has to bring this to the Commission. Then she would forward the approval to Mr. Aliberti, in writing, with the waivers that need to be signed.

Mr. Blaisdell confirmed that any regular field clean-up that Baseball performs is fine, but any major renovation needs to be discussed with and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Aliberti understands that he should have discussed the plan further with the Commission. He is coming to the Commission tonight for approval to get rid of the brush and trees. He plans to ask Wayne Britton to bring in an excavator and remove all the trees.

Mr. Blaisdell had viewed the area briefly, noting that a large rock was blocking access. He stated that the vegetation is “holding the hill up” (the base is sandy); and he is concerned that removal of all the brush would cause erosion of the hill.

Mrs. Brown asked what preventive measures were being taken to avoid erosion. Mr. Aliberti explained that they are getting wood chips to fill whatever is taken out. Mr. Aliberti feels that the chips will take care of any water runoff. Also, they plan to make a black asphalt path from the concession stand to C field. Wayne Britton will be doing the removal of the “shrubs”, providing the wood chips to fill in, and the asphalt. The crushed asphalt path will be of the same material as the driveway and maintained by SBSA.

Mrs. Brown asked if anyone other than Wayne Britton would be operating machinery. Mr. Aliberti said he would have to finalize the details of the plan. Mrs. Brown said that she will need something in writing so that she can provide the waivers necessary (for signatures) before work can be started.

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Mr. Blaisdell asked if Mr. Britton had a jack hammer, and could he attempt to reduce the rock (ledge) size. He is afraid that someone may damage their car driving around, or over it. Mr. Aliberti will ask Mr. Britton.

Other maintenance issues discussed were:

Material behind the concession stand (SBSA will take care of it – on agenda to do when C field cleaned up, and fence put up...this weekend or next).

End of season cleanup:

Concession stand needs to be cleaned out within 48 hours of Field Day.

Fence down within a week of Field Day (C field).

Mrs. Brown reminded Mr. Aliberti that there is no parking on C field until the fencing goes up; and there is no parking along the driveway (per Fire Chief) – cars will be towed.

Mrs. Brown also said that there should be another Baseball contact, when Mr. Aliberti is unavailable. Mr. Aliberti said that John Donahue is the obvious contact, but if he does not want to be the contact, or is unavailable, he would suggest Mike Harnois. Mr. Aliberti will contact Mr. Donahue and advise Mrs. Brown.

Mrs. Brown asked how the “lip” is on B field. Mr. Aliberti said that it still exists (causing the ball to pop up). It is much better than last year, and they can live with it. Mrs. Brown noted that the mowing contractor was in yesterday and asked if SBSA could rake some of the Turface back out of the grass (it will kill the grass). Mrs. Brown is also trying to get the irrigation/water opened up so drinking water will be available. The porta-potty should be there tomorrow.

Sandown maintenance will be putting in another post to the left of gate, on C field (liability carrier has requested). When that is done, Mrs. Brown will ask Triangle to shift the porta-potty over to that side. Then the other post can be removed.

Mrs. Brown asked about the addition of a shed at the end of the dugout. Mr. Aliberti explained that when the dugouts on A field were done, the dugout was extended, to prevent frequent alarm triggering. He said it is a small shed (about 2 ft. extension). Mrs. Brown noted that it is officially town property, and the Commission needs to have access. Mr. Aliberti will provide the code to her. Mrs. Brown noted that she will be at the fields next Monday at 6:00 to go over keys, codes, and alarms.

Mr. Aliberti left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Mr. Blaisdell mentioned that the vandalism to the Seeley Beach shed had been on the Sandown Community page (on line). It was noted that this had been scheduled to be fixed, but we have no town handyman at the moment.

Mrs. Brown noted that one of the offers for summer counselor position had been declined.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Utman
Recording Secretary