

Stratham Recreation Commission Minutes
October 15, 2015

Present: April Mason, Chris Cavarretta, Frank Lasorsa, Jeff Simeone, Tim Copeland, Pam Dziama,
Seth Hickey

Not Present: Tracy Abbott and J_____

Budget:

Seth calls attention to General Budget Report noting that report shows through end of September, this is the busiest time of year with regard to maintenance expenditures, field rentals are all paid through the beginning of Sept. and that more bills will be sent out for fall rentals. April made a motion that transfer of funds be made from reserve into revolving; seconded by Tim, all in favor.

Sports:

SMS Soccer Tournament coming up at end of October...board member states that there has been good feedback re: coaching and that the staggering of playing times has been positively received.

Basketball registration began the week of 10/12...one year into background screening (is annual process) and to date 150 coaches have gone through the process...have had no objections from coaches re: screening requirement (as it is known to all)...with 150 in database will automatically go through the process (with a the touch of a button) as original application notes OK for repeated checks.

Softball/Baseball fall programs will continue next year...no fees for this year

Seth brings up topic of "Friends of Stratham Baseball" noting that the two chairmen will join us later in our mtg. concerns expressed about how it would be set up, potential of leading to other boards wanting to do the same...(see add'l info at end of next page)

Stevens Park:

Garage proposal coming for pad (a MUST) and 2-bay garage...

John Hopping approached the Board re: naming the Babe Ruth Field at the Park (if not field, then the new garage) in recognition of Dan Sullivan's efforts for the program...April asks about procedure/policy...Tim speaks to the Sullivans work for programs in Stratham and makes a motion, Chris seconds, with all in favor that field be named, "Dan and Carol Sullivan Field," and that such naming be brought to the Selectmen.

Stratham Hill Park:

FAT Bikes...Seth has investigated details of a 2 year program (rent to both kids and adults/can be used in snow)...working with bike shops for purchase price-break that should yield return of purchase price when sold as used bikes at end of 2 yrs...hope to start Dec. 2015, to be kept undercover...encouraged by popularity as 100 people showed up for Fat Bike Festival last year...board requests more details about expenses, storage/security, and rental process...(Seth is also working with bike shops re: nominal fee for maintenance)

Forest Management...Seth reports that he was part of a 5-hr. walk recently and that a solid management plan is being written up to cover the next 5 years.

Short Easement...discussion about recommendations forthcoming about re-routing(since sale of property)some trails, and that boundary concerns are being discussed with Southeast Land Trust as they are the stewards

Roof Replacement...work begins on three next week

Administrative/Programming:

Community Trips: Newmarket Rec. has asked Seth about possibility of taking sports trips together (Stratham, Durham and Newmarket) ---they have a bus

Men's Basketball/Adult Activities: volunteers have stepped forward for men's b-ball

SMS: Principal, Tom Fosher has asked Seth about overseeing an after school program (8 week enrichment, offered 3 times/year) to include coordinating teachers, etc. Seth has questions about this...

Other:

Gifford House: painting completed...Seth to approach Selectmen about replacing clapboard

Upcoming Events:

Mountain Bike Race—10/19

Pat's Peak Ski and Board—registration opened on 10/15@6 A.M. , by 7:30 A.M. high school bus was full with 30 wait-listed (may get 2nd bus)...middle school bus had 37 out of 50 spots taken by evening...

Feed the Need—11/14—raise about \$3,000 each year which is then donated back to "End 68 Hours of Hunger" program.

Guests: Friends of Stratham Baseball Chairmen, Tom Coate and Tom Healy asked to meet with Board to discuss becoming 501C3 entity for the purpose of fundraising specifically for baseball so that money could be kept separate of registration...would like to direct \$ from fundraising to field improvements, possibly lighting, Cooperstown trips

Chris asks about Nat'l affiliation...response: Cal Ripken as Little League is too restrictive and expensive

They are unsure of where they are in the process of filing with the State of NH
After their departure Board discussed feasibility of Stratham Rec. being an umbrella applicant for such status, can Town set up own non-profit...