1 **Recreation Commission Meeting** 2 Stowe Arena- Wednesday, January 4, 2017 3 4 The regular meeting of the Stowe Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, January 4, 2017 in the 5 meeting room at the arena starting at 5:00 P.M. 6 7 Members present: Walt Levering, Norm Williams, Terrie Wehse, Brett Loomis and Pascale Savard. 8 Absent: Tom Ashworth and Lynn Altadonna. Also present: Matt Frazee, Recreation Director. 9 10 Norm moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Walt with all in favor. 11 12 Minutes of September 7, 2016 could not be approved as there were not the right players in attendance. 13 14 Discussion re: the shelter. Matt told members the capitol request has been submitted for construction 15 in the FY18 budget and the process which needs to take place- i.e. will need to remain where it 16 originally was approved; if approved the budget starts 7.1.17 so it would not be built until 2018. 17 18 Matt summarized the capital projects- saying the tennis courts at the elementary area are badly in need 19 of replacing and were submitted for future consideration. Brett asked if any consideration was given to 20 "band aiding" the tennis courts until a decision has been made about the Gale Center. Matt said some 21 consideration had been given to that but the cost would be significant and they would still need to be 22 replaced in a short period of time. Matt said the foundation and the fencing is ruined. 23 24 David Gale Center: Matt said the allowable footprint for a new building at its existing location would 25 provide adequate space and additional square footage would drastically reduce the limitations on 26 programming, after school programs, storage, summer camp, Kids Night Out etc. Terrie suggested since 27 the schools are at maximum capacity and the Gale Ctr needs to be replaced and it could be built with a 28 much larger footprint on the same lot, why not look into creating a Rec Ctr/Pre-K and Kindergarten 29 school on the Gale Ctr site. This with some coordination could be an answer to both schools and the 30 town needs. She also mentioned the possibility of building a gym in the new building as well as needed 31 classrooms. She felt since the Rec Ctr is primarily used when school is NOT in session this could be a win-32 win solution to utilization of space. 33 34 Brett said he wanted to stop talking about priorities and talk about what can get done. Matt explained 35 that the first step is the rec comm needs to do is inform the Selectboard of what they see as needed 36 priorities for their consideration to get the processes started, we have not been able to accomplish that 37 without quorums at previous meetings. It is noted 3 additional fields are needed. Walt felt the first 38 priority should be the fields and felt that is doable. Matt stated as long as there are conflicting and coexisting uses of athletics and events on the same fields, there will be limitations of quality and capacity 39 40 of the fields. Needed are 3 additional new fields. 42

41

43

44

Norm said his # 1 priority would be the Gale Ctr but realistically, it is not going to get done for some time. Members felt the list should include (1) fields; (2) David Gale Ctr and (3) Rec Path under Gables Bridge. Norm felt the Rec Commission is not going to get everything, perhaps not anything as there are projects out there that have been waiting for years and after discussion moved to suggest to the Selectboard they consider the following priorities; athletic fields, Gale Ctr replacement (proceed with this as soon as possible) and at the same time it would be helpful and beneficial to gather information re: the feasibility to move the Rec Path under the bridge.

Revenues at the rink are down slightly from the previous year and Matt outlined the reasons for this. Visitation was down roughly 20% in Town last winter which is significant, the punch passes had an impact and the outdoor rink at the Mountain all contributed. Discussion took place re: hiring a sales/marketing person with funds from advertising to help out. The decrease was largely due to public skating revenues, ice rentals were increased some (\$10,000). tape side 2 After discussion, Brett moved to support the Selectboard to look into furthering outsourcing of the arena. Norm stated this needs to be paid for out of advertising dollars. Walt seconded the motion with all members in favor. Matt said he is looking for someone to do the advertising etc but Brett said they were not proposing a full time person.

Summer Camp: Matt stated enrollment has dropped from approximately 110-120 kids to 76 kids from 2012 to present thereby revenues have dropped. The number of staff was reduced this past summer which resulted in a reduction of cost. Matt said he is trying to develop field trips closer to home and there is the possibility of changing the fee schedule, and changing the use of the passes, possibly charging a flat fee. He said that the Gale Center is becoming more and more a factor. Transportation is another factor in cost, as are supplies. Matt felt that 80 kids would be doable. The town is presently subsidizing 25% of the cost, i.e. transportation. Matt said they working to offering more electives to increase revenues will continuing to find ways to reduce expenses. Members felt they should proceed this coming year to determine what happens with revenues and cost based on some changes being proposed.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara S. Allaire