Recreation Commission Meeting Stowe Arena Meeting Room Wednesday, April 5, 2017

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The regular meeting of the Stowe Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, April 4, 2017 in the Arena Meeting Room starting at 5:00 P.M.

Members present: Lynn Altadonna, Brett Loomis (Chair); Terrie Wehse and newly appointed members Rick Swanson and Mike Loughran. Absent: Pascale Savard and Walt Levering.

Also present: Matt Frazee, Director, Harry Shepard, Public Works Director, David Jacqua; Ed frey, Leo Clark, Mark Schaal, Carol Schaal, Randy Hoder, Lee St Onge and Caleigh from the Stowe Reporter.

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Lynn moved and Terrie seconded the motion to approve the agenda.

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**Recreation Path Repair:** Harry Shepard explained there is a section of the path from the Rusty Nail to the intersection of Cape Cod Road bridge that has broken up caused by the plowing and poor drainage as well as how it was constructed. Temporary repairs will be taking place this spring but the permanent total project will be up for consideration in the 2019 Capital budget. It was suggest that when it is repaired it be made wider.

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## Polo Shelter: This portion of the minutes is only a synopsis of the discussion.

Brett stated at Town Meeting the project of the shelter was turned down and stated there no longer is the thought of a petition to go before the people again. Matt said if the members were to talk about the reallocation of the field then perhaps the shelter should be put on hold as a different location might be appropriate. Matt told members any shelter which were to be lightening proof would require significant work such as being an enclosed building and would need to adhere to state regulations. Matt reached out to several towns and the National Parks & Recreation and could not find any that have lightening proof shelters. Brett suggested that if the people had known about the regulations, it might not be such an issue. Brett asked members if they wanted to put any more time into talking about the shelter or move to discuss the fields. Brett stated if there is to be only one shelter, it needs to be right and in the right spot. The money approved at a previous town meeting was strictly for a shelter at the polo field. David Jacqua said the town has an emergency fund and suggested the money be turned back in to that and come up with a different presentation for a shelter. Lynn moved to postpone the discussion of the \$33,000 for a shelter until after discussion of the fields. Terrie seconded with all in favor. Harry Shepard, Town Project Manager said it important to make sure there is realistic alignment between the desired outcome and the budget. This project never had that. \$33,000 is not a lot of money to do that and not a realistic number at that site (site has several disadvantages). One needs to look at the program, figure out what you want and then figure out if it is realistic. If a shelter is to be revisited, stated Harry, you need to know what it would take to accomplish it and then get a realistic cost, codes, permits etc. Mr. Hoder, Pres of the Stowe Soccer Club stated the Stowe Soccer Club was willing to fund raise at one time and he reiterated that a shelter is needed wherever it is located. He stated the Parker Barn is not suitable for storage. Continuing discussion and Brett said he was very disappointed that there was noone present at town meeting to address the shelter and the needs, no one that wanted it was there to speak. Response was they thought it was by ballot.

1 Mayo Farm Fields: David Jacqua gave members an overview, along with a map of the fields, of how the 2 Mayo Farm became under the control of the Stowe Land Trust-in 2002 the town voted to approve a 25 3 year lease to the Stowe Land Trust. In the lease 32 acres was promised on fields J K & L. 32 acres for 4 recreation. Tape 1 side 2 Mr. Jacqua said the Stowe Land Trust could entertain the idea of reallocating 5 the fields and amend the lease as long as a conservation portion remains. He suggested in doing this 6 there would be fewer neighbors, it could help the Cemetery land but it has to be looked at to see if 7 desirable or even feasible and if the town wants expend funds, as well as in cooperation with Paul Percy. 8 It could cost in the vicinity of \$500,000 to make the fields usable. He suggested a study be done of the 9 feasibility but saw no "show stoppers". Mr. Shepard agreed that he saw no show stoppers but it would 10 require an amendment to Act 250 permit. Mr. Jacqua said Paul Percy would be giving up something 11 precious to him, prime ag land and the area has a septic easement (Mr. Shepard described the easement 12 for the town) .Brett thanked David for the information and for coming. Mr. Frey, a neighbor asked what the Commission would consider the definition of "agriculture", would it be livestock, fences, storage of 13 14 farm equipment etc. Mr. Altadonna suggested Mr. Frey speak with Tom Jackman or refer to the state 15 definition of agriculture. Mr Swanson left the meeting at 6:10 P.M. Mr. Clark in the audience, and a 16 neighbor, said he felt agriculture on that land would be much more acceptable. Mr. Jacqua felt this 17 would be an opportunity for the neighbors to participate. After more discussion, Brett moved the 18 Recreation Commission form a subcommittee to consider possible amendments to the Mayo Farm 19 Management Plan and easements. Terrie seconded the motion with all in favor. Mr. Levering, Swanson 20 and Ms. Savard were not present. 21 Terrie Wehse, Mike Loughran, Brett Loomis from the Rec Commission all indicated that they would be 22 interested in participating on the committee; David Jacqua (as a resident and not representing the 23 Conservation Commission) Leo Clark, resident and Ryan Percy will be asked if he is interested in serving. 24 The Task Force charge will be reviewed at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Harry said there is a capital reserve fund 25 but he cautioned some of the numbers that had been suggested. He suggested the process should start

now to see if the concept is agreeable. He said he did not think it feasible to go to the next town meeting with any credible cost estimate since an in depth study of the possibilities and cost estimates are needed in order to go forward and this could be something the Commission would want to recommend going to the voters for next year. Harry told the members if you want to build a building it needs to be done right, there are drainage issues, permits etc and decisions that would need to be made and he suggested doing an in depth study, develop a program and a realistic budget.

Harry said even though there is a reserve fund, the town has many needs, i.e. rec path, bridges, and the list goes on. Harry was thanked for attending the meeting.

**Other Business:** Mike will work with Matt re: time usage of the turf and Matt said he is open to any suggestions members may have.

Matt said that Rick Swanson is interested as a member of the commission, in looking into funding for scholarships for recreational programs.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M>

Respectfully submitted,

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