

1 Recreation Commission Meeting  
2 Stowe Arena- July 12, 2017

DRAFT

3  
4 The regular meeting of the Stowe Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at the Ice  
5 Arena with the following members present: Brett Loomis, Lynn Altadonna, Terrie Wehse, Michael  
6 Loughran and Adam Rice. Absent: Father Swanson and Walt Levering. Also present: Matt Frazee; Tony  
7 Whitaker, Rink Manager, Lee St Onge and ??

8  
9 **Agenda:** Lynn moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Terrie with all in favor.

10  
11 **Minutes of June 7, 2017:** Lynn moved to approve the minutes with a minor addition, seconded by Adam  
12 with all in favor.

13 Lynn noted that there are 19 picnic table at Thompson Park and suggested perhaps some could make  
14 their way to the Moscow Field. No discussion.

15  
16 **Mayo Fields Task Force Report:** Mike reported he, Adam Rice, Leo Clark, Bruce Nourjian, David Jaqua  
17 and Matt Frazee met with the ultimate goal to find a proposal satisfactory to all involved and are  
18 formally reaching out to the leaders. Mike said they are close to a conceptual idea, will then bring to the  
19 Commission, then draft a letter to the Selectboard for their decision to go forward or not. Mike said the  
20 town has one chance to do it right with the Stowe Land Trust being the largest entity and if their  
21 approval cannot be obtained it will not go any further. When asked Mike said informally someone  
22 reached out to Paul Percy who is not in favor. Lynn said he is major stakeholder. The plan for the process  
23 is to develop a direct proposal, come to the Commission, then the Selectboard who would then reach  
24 out to the Land Trust. The objective is to have it ready for the next Town Meeting. Mike said they  
25 haven't addressed roads, figures from contractors etc but they are things that will need to be  
26 addressed. Matt said some of the questions to be answered are how many fields are needed and for  
27 what purpose i.e. for lacrosse, youth soccer, Stowe Middle & High Schools need to have input. Matt said  
28 it needs to be shown to the Land Trust there is a Conservation benefit in order for the amendment to  
29 the easement to take place. Mike said Mr. Jaqua is developing a spread sheet showing the different  
30 purposes. Mr St. Onge was present and asked what the goals are. Mike said the need for additional  
31 fields and to make it more accommodating for events etc. Fields are being spread out and the question  
32 is how well are they utilized. Brett said the Commission's goal is to develop more fields for athletics. Mr.  
33 St Onge said it needs to be a big problem in order to justify the cost and felt it has been a long time  
34 getting the fields to be as good as they are. Matt said the task force is considering looking at expanding  
35 fields J K & L. He said situation started because of the conflicts some of which are the events with cars  
36 making the fields unusable at times, conflict with neighbors, safety factors etc. Mike said he will keep  
37 the members informed.

38  
39 **Quiet Path Access:** Lynn had brought up at the last meeting that it would be helpful if the access to the  
40 Mayo Farm Road where the new foot bridge was recently installed could be filled in some way to make  
41 it easier for people to access the Quiet Path. Harry Shepard, Public Works Director responded with a  
42 memo saying the problem could be solved for \$5-\$10,000 and no doubt would need to meet ADA  
43 standards. Mike suggested the possibility of a railing. It was noted that there are other sections of the

1 path that could have the same issue so after little discussion, Adam recommended no further action be  
2 taken, seconded by Terrie with all in favor.

3  
4 **Ice Rental Rates:** A lengthy discussion took place with Matt comparing our rates to other rinks such as  
5 Waterbury & Jay Peak. He then went thru the different rates/times with members having input asking  
6 what prime time hours are (after 9:00 p.m). Rates for that period were reduced last year. Mike said that  
7 he was not in favor of raising rates and suggested lowering rates in order to get more people/hours. He  
8 felt the rates should not be raised unless the demand is there and it is the demand which needs to be  
9 raised. Matt said at previous meetings held in the winter and also with the Selectboard the deficit of  
10 \$160,000 was discussed and at those meetings one of the things the Commission was asked to look at  
11 was raising the fees assuming everything else would stay the same- how much of an impact that would  
12 have. Also look at doing away with the local youth hockey discount and other discounts. Matt said on  
13 August 14 Tony and he will be presenting to the Selectboard a recommendation one way or the other.  
14 Brett said he felt after meeting with Lisa Haggerty, Charles and others, there are other things that had to  
15 be done to make up the deficit and felt the commission needs to know where the "other things are at".  
16 Mike felt there is a larger picture. Marketing is continuing to be done by Stowe Area by getting news  
17 letters out and they are currently working on an ad. Matt said he is looking into possible figure skating  
18 groups, looking into changing software system which will be more beneficial in marketing etc. Brett felt  
19 tournaments should be strengthened. Tony Whitaker, Rink Manager present and gave members details  
20 about times, tournaments he is working on and fees. Brett felt Stowe Area should not be dictating to the  
21 town when tournaments can be held because of lodging facilities. He felt there is adequate lodging even  
22 if not in Stowe. Tony said they are not dictating but they know when and where lodging is available.

23 **tape 1 side 2** Matt said the Town has never turned anyone away, never told anyone they cannot book  
24 ice if there is not lodging available. Terrie asked to see how other hours such as 1:00 – 3:00pm could be  
25 filled. Tony said he is looking at his employees taking more time off (labor costs). Members agreed to  
26 discuss the issue further at their August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and prior to the Selectboard meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

27  
28 Renting of the concession stand for \$150 per season was discussed, asked if there is a potential for  
29 expanding and Matt was asked if there are other people/businesses who have been contacted. Matt  
30 told members they will re-evaluate.

31  
32 There being no further business no come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

33  
34 Respectfully submitted,

35  
36  
37 Barbara S. Allaire

38