

Stowe Recreation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, December 6, 2017 – Stowe Arena

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The regular meeting of the sTowe Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, December 6, 2017 in the Arena starting at 5:00 P.M. with the following members: Brett Loomis, Lynn Altadonna, Walt Levering; Mike Loughran and Father Rick Swanson. Absent: Adam Rice and there is one vacancy on the Commission. Father Rick announced his resignation at the end of the meeting saying he has been appointed to church Board which will take his time. Also present : Matt Frazee, Recreation Director and Terrie Wehse, who had been contracted for 90 days to assist with sales and marketing efforts for the arena present and Bob Connerty.

Walt moved to approve the agenda. Brett moved to amend the agenda to include a continuation of the Mayo Farm relocation of fields. Lynn seconded the motion and the agenda schedule was passed with the amendment.

Minutes of October 4, 2017: Lynn moved to accept as written, seconded by Walt in favor. All in favor.

Ms. Wehse gave her report saying she worked 2 months, speaking to many people. Tried to get dasher board and banners. Most are interested in ice and Brian Bucick’s soccer academy, was very interested in the turf. She said she heard from about half she contacted by e-mail who had questions, i.e. how many sheets of ice; what is offered for lodging, what association is there in town etc. Terrie gave them logistics as to distances from neighboring towns, i.e. 10 mi to Waterbury;- saying we limited availability. Some wanted ice that we don’t have, i.e times, sheets etc. the Glades interested and gave possibilities but many she didn’t hear from. Availability of ice is an issue. Brett said there has to be a way to make it more appealing, i.e the motels etc. but it is a problem as there are so many week ends the town is full. Terrie felt it will take a core group to promote Brett said Youth Hockey is growing fast and we should try and come up with ways to promote the arena. Bob Leonard has 30 tournaments a year but that is his business. Walt asked if she worked with Waterbury and said no, but they have the same issues as well. Matt said it takes local organizations like NAHA and Green Mountain Avalanche with man power and resources to host tournaments. He said we are not an “official home” to any of the other elite/privatized groups and the reason is lack of consistent availability, Fri , Sat & Sun those teams are gone and that is when we have our availability. To cut down the deficit in the operating budget, Matt said we may need to make some tough decisions and try to free up some prime hours for other regional teams. Brett said it is going to take someone who has the man power and organizations skills to put things together. Terrie said she had spoken to groups who are not hockey players but have to be sanctioned by someone and were not interested. Possible to get figure skating groups involved but that has to be a part of a program and possibly a satellite club. Terrie also said the Bruins are very interested in returning this year. Dasher Boards: it was felt by some they are too expensive and some are still debating etc. Brett said dasher boards should be so that people can give back by purchasing one and being able to afford one. Terrie said it is not easy to get people here and it takes an organization to host someone here- not up to the Commission (or town). No one is creating Stowe. Need someone like Stowe Vibrancy. Mr. Swanson suggested having a full time position to pull together and sell the town thru sports and pull together the sports that we have (a 2-3 year project). Walt agreed. Matt said reality is 10 more

1 tournaments would not result in a net profit in the operating budget, and the fields right now are at
2 capacity. **tape 1 side 2`**

3 Brett did not think it a good idea at this time because of the budget but people can talk about it.

4 Terri left the meeting

5 .

6 Matt said the tennis court re-doing is a capital budget and he felt something needs to happen in order to
7 get the amount of use they do.

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9 Dug outs will be built out of the current budgets

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11 **Mayo Fields:** Brett asked that the Commission go back to the Selectbaord and ask for funds (\$30-40,000)
12 to continue researching the new athletic fields, feeling that the discussion should continue after all the
13 work was done by the Task Force. We need to know what and where the Commission can go with the
14 idea. After discussion Lynn moved to direct Brett to seek \$ 40,000 as a capital request to support a
15 study recommended by the joint Task Force. Mike seconded the motion with Lynn, Brett, Mike and Rick
16 in favor. Matt said it is up to Mr. Safford to approve or disapprove and then could go to the Selectboard.

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18 **Rec Comm Annual Work Plan** Matt presented a draft annual work plan for the Recreation Commission.
19 This was a follow up on a previously discussed agenda topic from February that the group asked to
20 revisit later in the year. The annual work plan provides a yearly timeline for certain topics to be
21 addressed during Recreation Commission meetings. The group appreciated the concept of identifying
22 areas which are important to focus on each year and scheduling appropriate times of the year to discuss
23 them. The group approved the draft work plan as proposed and agreed to start effective with January
24 meeting.

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26 There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.
27 6:45.

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29 Respectfully submitted,

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32 Barbara S. Allaire

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34 These minutes have not been reviewed by me, Barbara

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