

1 Stowe Recreation Commission Meeting

2 Wednesday, April 4, 2018- Arena

DRAFT

3 The regular meeting of the Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, April 4, 2018 in the Arena
4 Room starting at 5:00 P.M. Members present: Brett Loomis, Chair; Lynn Altodonna, Adam Rice and Mike
5 Loughran. Walt Levering has resigned from the Commission leaving 3 vacancies.

6 Present in the audience were Mary Skelton, Kate Smith, Max Levine and son Jack.

7 Brett called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

8 Lynn moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Adam with all in favor.

9 **Minutes of March 7, 2018:** Adam moved to accept as written, seconded by Lynn with all in favor.

10 Polo Shelter. Kate Smith, Max Levine and son Jack were present to follow up on the status of the shelter,
11 especially following their son Jack's letter in the Stowe Reporter. Mr. Levine asked what they could do to
12 help further the issue of getting a shelter and gave the reasons why they felt one is necessary. Brett said
13 the commission supported the shelter but has now taken a step back and are looking into where
14 additional athletic fields could be located, i.e. on the polo field, perhaps into where the gardens are
15 presently located. If this were to happen, Brett said, that would be the time to pursue the shelter. Mr
16 trying to find out where subject stands, locating fields where families could have access would be what
17 he is looking for. Matt said the commission will be discussing the survey done at Town meeting but the
18 main overall goal is a need for 3 additional fields dedicated to recreation and not events. Looking at J , K
19 (on the sides of the driveway) & L (polo), which are currently dedicated to recreation, there is an13
20 acres available for recreation. Next step is to have feasibility study, wetland studies, initial field design
21 and layout which would be a capital request. Possible cost would be \$30,000. The goal would be to get
22 the studies done in the coming year, then the second year ask for money to construct. Matt stated the
23 meeting would all be posted and are public. Mr. Levine said he did not feel they could dedicated hours
24 to the shelter if nothing is going to happen. Mike felt there needs to be a central location for any shelter.
25 Adam suggested the possibility of a shelter which could be relocated.

26 **Peace Park:** Lynn Altadonna introduced Mary Skelton as a member of Board of Stowe Vibrancy. Lynn
27 explained how the idea got started throughout the world and said the question is, would the
28 Commission support the possibility of establishing a Peace Park, a place where people could gather
29 pushing back violence and terrorism. The suggestion was suggested using Thompson Park where there is
30 a bolder given by Ralph Heath. Brett asked how local groups would want it to look? Mike said he was
31 supportive but wondered if there was an agenda behind it? Lynn responded that he is a vet and did not
32 know of any group against the idea. Matt asked if there requirements to have a designated Peace Park.
33 Lynn said no. it is an opportunity to come together as a group of people. Adam said he was supportive to
34 use a town venue but keep it simple with no cost. Adam moved to support the concept to establish a
35 Peace Perk on town property or aspect of, seconded by Brett with Mike, Brett, Adam and Lynn voting in
36 favor. Lynn will now take the concept to the Selectboard.

37 **5:35 Polo Shelter Discussion.** Matt described some of the results of the Town Meeting survey and
38 identified some of the responses which were mixed. He said there is the perception that there is not a
39 need. Brett said we have the Selectboard's support **tape 1 side 2** but where is the commission going

1 with the results? The town plan identifies the need for additional fields. Lynn felt the Commission needs
2 to focus on where and why we need fields. Matt said whatever is proposed, groups in support need to
3 show up at the meetings and represent their needs. Matt asked if a wetlands study should be done first
4 (he did not feel a study would give different information than is already known) and the Commission
5 needs to decide if it wants to focus on J, K & L or the possible options at the high school (which could be
6 complicated) . He said after that decision is made, look to put together a capital request for the fall to do
7 the wetlands study along with a plan ready for town meeting. Discussion continued about the need.
8 Brett said he felt it was already decided the school is not an option for many reasons. Matt said the
9 Commission needs to come up with money if they decide to do the wetlands study. Brett felt perhaps
10 Tom Jackman could help with the wetlands study but Matt said both Tom and Harry Shepard are aware
11 of the previous study and do not feel it would change significantly. Matt felt the parking
12 accommodations complicates everything as an area for at least 60 cars is needed for the normal
13 everyday uses. Brett expressed his frustration on why nothing has been done after the Commission
14 withdrew their request for funds and had the support of the Selectboard for J K & L. Lynn suggested
15 going to the Selectboard to seek funds for investigating the possibility of pursuing J,K &L. Matt
16 discouraged doing that. He said if this were to go through, it will take years, going through the process
17 and hundreds of thousands of dollars and suggested not forcing anything. He said the town has many
18 projects that need to be addressed which are expected to be costly. Brett said he just wanted the
19 process to go forward. Matt said in order to get where we need to be we have to go through the whole
20 process, i.e. soils testing, wetlands study etc. Mike asked if it had been discussed to go out to the private
21 sector for help? Matt said the current studies are only good if construction takes place within 2 years
22 (which that has not happened). Matt reiterated the permitting process as well as the land where the
23 parking lot could be expanded is considered by the state as AG land even though it is zoned for
24 recreation. In order to accommodate the large events a parking lot for 300 cars would be needed. This
25 discussion continued with Adam suggesting a couple of people get together with David Jaqua and come
26 up with a plan. Matt stated the only 3 ways possible to expedite the process would be (1) argue space
27 for 300 cars is not needed; (2) not allow the fields to be used for large events and (3) try and do it all in
28 one fiscal year which is risky. END of TAPE After little more discussion, Adam moved to come up with a
29 committee to work with David Jaqua to revise a proposal with a design and cost for the future. Lynn
30 seconded the motion with all in favor.

31 Matt told members there has been a request to possibly install volley ball courts on the Moscow field.
32 Members had questions and suggested Matt get Bruce involved before any decision is made.

33 Meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M>

34

35 Respectfully submitted,

36

37 Barbara S. Allaire

38