

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42

Recreation Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, May 2, 2018- Arena

**DRAFT**

The regular meeting of the Stowe Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, May 2, 2018 in the meeting room at the Arena with the following members present: Brett Loomis, Adam Rice, Lynn Altadonna and newly appointed member Ben Novogroski who was welcomed. Absent: Michael Loughran and there remains one vacancy on the Commission. Also present: Matt Frazee, Parks & Recreation Director.

**Agenda:** Lynn had an e-mail from Michael Diender asking about a pickle ball court in Stowe. Agenda was amended to include the e-mail which will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Slate of Officers:** Lynn moved to re-elect Brett Loomis as Chair and Brett moved to elect Ben as Vice-Chair. Lynn seconded the motion for the above slate of officers with all in favor.

**Athletic Fields Discussion:** Matt stated he had previously met with Harry Shepard and Charles Safford about more fields and then read aloud the Athletic Field Study for the Commission’s input. The Management plan designates J K & L as recreation up to 36 acres. Question why can’t more be used? About 2006 a wetlands analysis was done and it was determined there is only enough room to create 1 additional field which could be a large one and 3-4 fields had been anticipated. The section of the field which was used for a bike park is now available. Middle school soccer and Stowe Youth Lacrosse would be the primary use of the space and they don’t need a regulation field. (so could possibly be room for 2 middle school soccer fields. This doesn’t take into account field J which has no wetlands. Matt stated the Town’s capital policy outlines the policy for a project this size and said the Commission needs to be on board with this project as well as others on the outside, including the teams and users. Matt felt it important to get together with the school and pursue that avenue as it will likely come up at some point. Another question will be how big and true is there is a need? It has to be the school, parents, kids, events people etc who need to be on board with their support. Matt said the David Gale Ctr is in need of repair and the state is pushing to be licensed for the afternoon program and because they thee is a summer program, the state would regulate it. To do that, the summer program would be limited to 30 kids (now have about 80). Brett said since he has been on the Commission we still put that building on the priority list and asked Matt if the priority list should be changed? Matt said that issue will come up for the Commission to clarify and the other is, is this the responsibility of the town , being that the need and impact in the fall is the Stowe Middle School soccer and in the fall the need is a private organization that offers the program to the kids. Is this a town problem or is it the school’s responsibility. Adam suggested to proceeding with preliminary costs for the wetlands study and a lay out to go to the voters in the fall- let the voters decide. Brett said the Commission has demonstrated the need for athletics, keeping events separate and looking ahead to things happening in town. Matt suggested meeting with the people involved, including the Superintendent of Schools etc. Also need to meet with the Renaissance people as they insist on using field B and parking on field A-Bruce feels they should totally be on A and keep B for the Lacrosse kids, the different camps we have etc. That would take a change in the ordinance. Brett felt the Commission should be able to tell the user where they will have their event not let them tell the Commission. Matt said the Commission would need to go to the Selectboard when these applications come up. Matt said the Commission needs to say they would re-designate Mayo A as the event field and B & C not available to large events, at least have restrictions. Then the question would be, do we need more fields? **tape 1 side 2** Matt and Brett will set up a meeting with Tracy

1 Wrend, Superintendent. Would the school have an interest and would they want to develop more fields  
2 and or (2) is there potential for the town to invest with the process without getting involved with the  
3 school funding laws. Could/would then go to the School Board. Matt explained the areas at the high  
4 school which could possibly be developed with a possible land swap or lease. Brett felt any new fields  
5 should be standard size. The process would probably be: that all need to be in line with what the need  
6 is; request the money for the preliminary design. Matt has contacted a colleague who will come next  
7 month, look at the fields and give a cost estimate. Matt advised the members that the Town's bond  
8 capacity is going to be maxed out, the town is taking on major projects with tax implications, i.e. burying  
9 the power lines, news sidewalks etc. Brett said whatever we do we need to do as a Commission,  
10 whether it is the Rec Ctr or anything else but we don't need to fall into the hands of "there is a long list  
11 of things to do, of course there is and we are always at the bottom of the totum pole but we have to  
12 start somewhere." Ben said we do have a plan and need to support it. Matt advised the members that  
13 they need to have patience. Town Plan Impact: Matt said that needs to be amended when the time  
14 comes to save fields J & K. Leave field J out of it re: developing a field and possibly bring in gravel and or  
15 use as a grassed area for parking if need be. Lynn felt there should be a map which indicates what is  
16 currently there for fields, the wetlands etc so the Commission can tell how to go forward. Adams said he  
17 felt he and David Jaqua could come up with areas which may be able to be developed. Members agreed  
18 to do a site visit at the fields. Matt said the shelter will not go away especially since the Commission is  
19 talking about developing additional fields. tape off at 6:10. tape 2 side 1 on at 6:15. Matt said there may  
20 be someone who may be interested in developing a pickle ball program so Lynn will pass the word to  
21 Michael Diender. There are courts laid out at the elementary school. Bid process will start this fall with  
22 the intention of doing the tennis courts at the elementary school in the spring. Brett suggested they use  
23 foam underneath which gels to keep the frost out.

24 **Tournaments:** Matt told members that there is an individual who would like to engage in conversation  
25 with the town conversation to some potential arrangements for additional tournaments. Brett said  
26 there is a problem with enough lodging. Matt said the Rec Dept has engaged several tournaments and  
27 the reason Stowe is not of interest is we have one sheet of ice, no major chain of restaurant etc and they  
28 can't make money. Terri Wehse did a report and the lodging is where they can make money.

29

30 There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

31

32 Respectfully submitted,

33

34 Barbara S. Allaire