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Recreation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, June 6, 2018 Arena

DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Stowe Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, June 6, 2018 in the meeting room at the Arena with the following members present: Brett Loomis, Adam Rice, Lynn Altadonna, Michael Loughran, and Ben Novogroski. Absent: there remains two vacancies on the Commission. Also present: Matt Frazee, Parks & Recreation Director and David Jaqua.

Agenda: Brett called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Lynn motioned to approve the agenda, Adam seconded. Consent items 4/4 minutes and 5/2 minutes were both motioned and approved.

Athletic Fields Discussion: Adam stated that he and Matt met with David to discuss next steps. The agenda summary outlines the details and outcome of the meeting. David summarizes the report stating that he and the RC spent last year exploring the concept of swapping the Rec zone of J, K and L for D and E but the project did not receive a lot of overall support from the community and selectboard did not feel the timing was ripe. Discussed moving forward with request for wetland study of J,K,L. The steps for a project like this are well established with the town and outlined in the summary. Adam asked if we should try to be more aggressive with the timeline. Matt felt the reality of trying to speak up timeline would be detrimental to achieving support. David suggested that stakeholders need to be brought in and they need to say whether or not there is a problem with existing fields, if yes then provide definition, if no then RC should stop the pursuit and focus on something else. Matt and Adam concurred that users such as Stowe Soccer Club, Stowe Middle School Soccer, Stowe Youth Lacrosse, etc. need to say that there is a problem and need to be vocal about needing additional fields for this to get support. Mike felt that he felt we should be looking into a bigger venture than just three more fields, he felt the D and E would have been more beneficial. Matt said that the selectboard did not indicate they were against the Rec Zone swap concept, just that they felt it would be a part of a broader discussion closer to when the existing easement renews. What needs to happen now is there has to be alignment as to the Problem Definition and project scope. Are the fields a problem, how many fields are needs, would there be a shelter (open or enclosed), what quality of fields are needed. Brett indicated that he felt bringing in groups to gage if there is still a problem is unnecessary and going backwards. He said Matt should know as well as anyone if it is a problem. Matt indicated that it does not appear to be as big of a problem as it was a few years ago because the Town has amended the ordinance to limit the number of events on the fields and there are not as many car show/big tent events as there used to be. Now there are more athletic/running events which do not have as big of an impact. Matt said that for this to get support, the users need to state if a problem exist from having athletics cancelled because of events, the co-use of events and athletics causes safety concerns, and it is generally an issue for people of not having enough dedicated athletic field space since they are forced to use events fields which are primary for events and secondary for athletics. The agenda summary also specified that Matt met with Tracy Wrend to ask if the school felt there is a problem with the existing field situation in Town, if they had any plans to address on their own, and if the Town wanted to contribute to doing anything on school property, are there school funding laws or act 60 that would prevent that. Tracy indicated it is not something she has received complaints about but there is a committee who is evaluating athletic facilities. She said school funding laws should not prevent Town if they wanted to contribute to project on schools fields. She is going to provide feedback for the July meeting from the committee.

1 Ben motioned to invite groups/athletic field users, including school to meeting next month to gage their
2 input as to if there is a problem with the current athletic fields and also engage the school as to what
3 could be done at existing school fields. Adam seconded, all approved.

4 **Other business:** Matt told members that despite increasing funding for FAP, they have seen requests
5 more than double and are looking for ways to raise more funds. He suggested charging a \$2 suggested
6 donation fee for parking at July 4th. Adam made a motion to approved a \$2 suggested donation for July
7 4th parking on Mayo A. Ben seconded, all approved.

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

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11 Respectfully submitted,

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13 Ben Novogroski / Matt Frazee