

Recreation Commission Meeting

DRAFT

July 11, 2018- Stowe Arena Meeting Room

The regular meeting of the Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at the Arena with members Brett Loomis, Mike Loughran, Ben Novogroski, Adam Rice and Lynn Altadonna (at 5:50)

Others present: Dot Hayden representing the Rugby Club; Tyler Mumley, Stowe softball; Jenna Ware, Stowe Youth Lacrosse and Chris Oleks, Stowe High School Principal. Also present: Matt Frazee, Parks & Recreation Director.

Ben moved and Mike seconded to approve the agenda.

Minutes of June 6, 2018: Mike oved to accept as written, seconded by Ben with all present in favor.

This is a synopsis of what took place and comments made: Brett explained that those groups who use the athletic fields, i.e. polo and Mayo Events field were invited to attend this meeting to discuss whether or not there is a problem is a problem and need and need to develop additional fields for athletics. Matt explained the purpose and what is and isn't allowed on the different fields, No more than 8 Special Events are allowed now which has allowed for more time and more athletic events. Since some of the large shows (i.e. car shows) are not here anymore, they have been replaced selectively with more athletic events etc. In the Management Plan is allowed up to 36 acres of athletic field space at Polo J< K< L. The existing polo field is approximately 13 acres. Matt stated the School District has formed a committee to review their current school facilities including assessment of the existing athletic fields. After going to the Selectboard to discuss the swapping of fields and they felt the timing is not right but could be part of a broader discussion closer to the end of current easement. Matt said if the Commission chooses to go back to the Selectboard with a capitol request there should be a uniform message and a clear solution so everyone is on board.

Tyler Mumley, representing volley ball and softball leagues said they are happy with the volley ball court at the Moscow field and would like another court there. He said they are happy where the softball fields are now but because of the amount of usage of the fields, they show wear and tear. He said there is a push for more softball events which is difficult to schedule. He found no problem with parking this year. Tyler said there have been times the fields are not as good as others but generally He said they want to keep the softball fields together.

Dot Hayden reported that the rugby groups love the field they are on and stated there is no need for additional room or more parking.

Brett asked if rugby and soccer can co-exist and Matt said sometimes. Brett said one of the long term goals is to make it so that the field get the opportunity to "rest". Presently there is no option to rest polo or softball fields as there is no other place to rotate them.

Jenna Ware stated they are trying to manage their own fields better but it would be a challenge if the fields were to be moved away from the Rec Path. They are currently losing kids but want to keep the same number of fields. The polo field would not be an ideal location for SYL and she stated they really need a shelter.

1 Chris Oleks, Principal said the high school is at capacity for fields/events and space is an issue. Bruce is
2 doing a fantastic job on the fields and a committee has been formed to consider what can be done to
3 alleviate the space issue. He felt they are probably 2 years down the road with any resolution but happy
4 to remain in a dialogue. Ben asked if events could held on the school property in the summer and Mr.
5 Oleks said he wasn't sure but he knew the school would love more fields. Lynn arrived at 5:40. Matt said
6 middle school soccer and Stowe Youth Lacrosse have historically been the most impacted by events but
7 the Town has been more selective with events which has lessened the impact. Matt stated if having
8 fields at D & E centralized would be the ideal solution then that could potentially be explored when the
9 easement expires. Ben felt there could be an opportunity with the high school and Chris said they would
10 love more fields. Adam suggested communicating with David Jaqua who is working with the high school.
11 No other comments from those present who left at 5:50. Brett thanked them for attending the meeting.

12 **tape 1 side 2** Ben suggested staying away from more events and concentrate on upgrading the fields.
13 Matt said in order to have more athletic events there would need to be more infrastructure. Matt said
14 the Commission would be a disservice not to talk about the Rec Center. The schools are not going to give
15 any definitive answers re: field space at least for a year. We could continue to pursue JK & L; decide D & E
16 is the way to go for the solution or are the field today the number one priority—we need to decide the
17 priorities over the next 5-10 years. The Rec Center needs to be addressed. Brett brought up the subject
18 of the Gables Bridge and Tennis Courts which were priorities of the RC and are currently being
19 addressed. Brett felt the high school fields should be taken off the table and not have them address the
20 Commission's problem. Adam felt the Commission should remain involved with the school and he said
21 he was not hearing any ground swell of problems with space. Ben said he hears there is an issue,
22 especially at the high school but felt there is a possibility with them. Matt said the question is, how can
23 the heavily used fields be made better- the polo field has drainage problems and very uneven. Lynn
24 suggested someone discuss with the person at Stowe Country Club who has installed French drainage.
25 Mike stated he felt there needs to be a 5-10 year plan and the Commission should develop a list of the
26 needs of other projects. After continued discussion, Adam moved to pause on developing additional
27 athletic fields and focus on improving the existing fields as well as exploring an amendment to the
28 events/athletic portion of the Management Plan. Mike seconded the motion with all in favor.

29 Matt said he will be reporting to the Selectboard in August re: the Arena report and encouraged
30 members to attend.

31 Lynn told members he is proposing to get a dump truck load of dirt and locate at one end of the Peace
32 Park and use for children to plant tulips in the fall. He is also planning to have some involvement with
33 the American Legion/Auxiliary for a possible ceremony on 11-11 21-8 (veteran's Day).

34 The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

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36 Respectfully submitted,

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39 Barbara S. Allaire