

1 Recreation Commission Meeting

2 Wednesday, August 1, 2018- Stowe Arena

DRAFT

3 The regular meeting of the Stowe Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, August 1, 2018 in the  
4 arena starting at 5:00 PM. Present were: Brett Loomis, Lynn Altadonna, Adam Rice and Mike Loughran.  
5 Absent: Ben Novogroski and there are 2 vacancies. Also present: Matt Frazee, Recreation Director and  
6 Emily Boek, Program Director.

7 Lynn moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Mike with all in favor.

8 Minutes of July 11, 2018: Mike moved to approve as written, seconded by Adam with all in favor.

9 Emily was present to go over the list of 2018-19 fall and winter program proposals for members. Emily  
10 explained each category which are: arena programs; arena events; tots; youth; youth sports; teen;  
11 family and events. Emily said she is trying to create more options for after school programs. Present  
12 tennis instructor will no longer be doing it so looking for a new person. Mike gave Emily a name to  
13 contact. Pickleball new for adults to try. Father/Daughter Dance to be held at the elementary school  
14 gym; Best in "Snow" will be offered to all Stowe residents as well as the business community. Members  
15 asked questions which Emily responded. Red Cross Baby Sitter course is \$80 per person. Emily explained  
16 that this is not for giving CPR or things like that, just for actual things for babysitting. (this course is  
17 offered twice a year). Emily said the instructor needs to be certified. Emily said she would look into  
18 getting an instructor. Brett asked what the Rec Department does as it pertains to the Stowe Youth  
19 Hockey's Learn To Skate program and the answer was; all the administrative work, money, registration,  
20 marketing; everything other than the on-site instruction. Camp going very well, stated Emily with 50-60  
21 children per day. No longer can have the golf program at Blush Hill. Ms. Boek was thanked and left at  
22 the meeting at 5:25.

23 Field Improvements Discussion: Question should we pursue amending the Management Plan for fields  
24 B & C to allow for athletics rather than just events? Matt said the primary challenge with the exiting  
25 fields is they are over utilized both for events and athletics. There is no permanent solution as long as  
26 the situation remains- the fields never get a chance to heal. If more fields were added at the school  
27 which Bruce Godin feels there could be an additional 2-3 which could allow Stowe Youth Lacrosse and  
28 Stowe Middle School Soccer to be housed there, there would not be a significant problem. Would need  
29 to address the drainage and a minimum of 1 field could be added. Matt felt this could be the ideal  
30 solution but the school has a committee to evaluation and assess its facilities but they have indicated  
31 that they will not be focusing on their fields for a year or so. J, K & L: not only wetlands, drainage has  
32 always been an issue and restricted usage because of neighbors and management plan, limited parking.  
33 Additional fields were considered on J K & L but the above issues question its suitability. Mayo Field A  
34 designed for large events and not athletics but could bring in top soil and irrigation; Mayo B & C: these  
35 are primarily for events but could be improved by tying into the nearby water and adding irrigation. The  
36 biggest challenge is they are not allowed to rest. Other than funds to install irrigation systems, would be  
37 staffing for which there is no specific athletic maintenance staff- Bruce and his staff go above and  
38 beyond what they have to do. Mayo B & C could be improved but they have suffered from the number  
39 of events and would have the same staffing issue. Memorial Park is also very wet and would need to  
40 raise them above the water level and install drainage systems. Brett stated the Commission has been  
41 talking for years about how to make the fields better and or the shelter etc and nothing has happened.

1 He asked the Commission if the goal is to make the fields better? Matt said he felt it is an issue of timing.  
2 There has been 2 projects within the last 10 years on the events fields. Money has recently been  
3 invested in the events fields to make them better. Brett said the main purpose of the fields was to have  
4 a base for both events and athletics. Brett asked if there is anything that could be done with the help of  
5 Bruce's office, the Selectmen to get the fields fixed? Matt responded saying the fields are reseeded,  
6 aerated, fertilized, fields are rolled periodically. Nothing Bruce can do as long as the fields are being used  
7 as they are stated Matt. **tape 1 side 2** Lynn suggested contacting the person at the golf course as there  
8 may be different products or things they use. Brett said the Commission could take fields B & C and  
9 concentrate on for better grass. Matt said they could speak with the golf course person but really are  
10 not comparing apples to apples, the golf course is to make their customers happy with beautiful grass  
11 and they have the financial ability to do it. Bruce agrees there are things that can be done, i.e. irrigation  
12 systems, which would require a complete change to the structure including staffing and financial  
13 resources. Matt said the question is, what direction are things going down the road and in the future?  
14 The school is studying the issue and they could reorient their fields, additional fields at the school would  
15 change the needs of the current Town's fields otherwise would need to address the current fields which  
16 could involve more staff etc. This discussion continued with questions and comments. Matt felt to do  
17 anything people would be displaced and Brett disagreed. Adam moved to (1) ask Matt to meet with Park  
18 staff to come up with concrete recommendations on how to improve existing fields over time, (2) an  
19 amendment to the Management Plan for fields B & C and (3) and more transparency on the utilization  
20 of the high school fields. Mike commented that he felt Stowe is ill-equipped to have large events and  
21 felt there needs to be a centralized field based on traffic, parents have to transport from field to field  
22 and parking. . Lynn seconded the motion with all in favor.

23 Adam did not feel there is a current problem. .

24 Matt said more to the point is how the fields are being used. He reiterated saying the fields need to rest.

25 There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:25

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27 Respectfully submitted,

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29 Barbara S. Allaire