

Recreation Commission Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, June 3, 2020

- 2 The regular Recreation Commission meeting was held Wednesday, June 3, 2020 via Zoom starting at 5:03 P.M.
- 3 Members present: Lynn Altadonna, Brett Loomis, Dave Rogers, Ben Novogroski, Mike Loughran, Adam Rice, Matt Frazee. In audience: Kelli Millick, Megan Mallory, Loren Marshall, Skylar McNally, Graham Mink, Ian Smith, Amanda Pelkey, Peter Teuber, Tif Donza, Nick Donza, Scott Ciaraldi, Patti Arrison, Brian Forrest
- 4 **5:03pm called to order. Agenda Approved.**
- 5 **Stowe Arena**
- 6 Matt informed that the school did respond, and our groups do have permission to use the schools for the summer. The Schools will not be available for the final two weeks of camp. Matt spoke with Tracy Wrend and the school wants to be very supportive and provide the facility space. Matt informed that with Phase two the Arena is able to open with requirements; groups of 25 or less, no contact, and a health screening for each person entering the rink. Ken, an Agency of Commerce representative, indicated that the capacity can vary 25% capacity or 1 person per 200 sq. ft. for indoor facilities. Ken stated there is a reasonable chance for those numbers for increase in August. Numbers are for control in case of a positive test. Lynn asked Ken about gymnasium space, Ken indicated that if the space is large enough and if groups are not able to intermix, gymnasiums could be used.
- 7 Matt asked for more information on who is responsible for screening participants. Ken determined that the entity renting the facility create their own compliance document. Matt has been in communication with Bob from Cairns, Bob provided their opening guidelines. To make opening practical and realistic the Recreation Department will need to put the onus on the organization to conduct and provide us with the information that the organization has asked the health screening questions and temperature testing. Matt reviewed what programs are not permitted at the rink; public skate, stick n puck, or adult groups. We do have Amanda Pelkey, Kellian Hockey, figure skating programs and possibly Stowe Youth Hockey able to utilize the rink. Matt and Ken clarified that drop ins are not permitted unless there is a reservation list to track participants and a screening process. Brett asked for more information about why adult hockey groups are not allowed. Matt explained the adult groups have historically plays scrimmages and games, if they were to approach and work within the restrictions in the guidelines they could be allowed.
- 8 Matt explained the Selectboard will be meeting on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and deciding as to whether or not to open the Arena. There are a few different considerations; the overall budget, staffing requirements, and if there is a demand to rent the ice. Matt explained that there is clear interest in use between the Pelkey and Kellian camps, internal figure skating programs, and possibly Stowe Youth Hockey. Matt explained that staffing will be a challenge, only one person is budgeting to work the Arena and we do have the potential to bring in a part time person but there will be a training period required. It is a challenge because people have been reassigned to the Parks department out of necessity. There is a difference between what is allowed and what we could reasonably accommodate. Matt mentioned it would take up to 4 weeks to prepare the Arena to open. For any business that has been closed there is an exposure plan required, Matt asked Ken if there is a contact to assist with putting that plan together. Ken indicated the health department is the contact for that. Dave suggested finding volunteers to run a thermometer and file paperwork so the onus is off the rink employees and allow rink employees to prep the machines and ice.

9 Mike made a motion to strongly recommend to the Selectboard that they open the rink. Brett seconded. Lynn asked the board if anyone would like to modify the motion in any way. Brett asked Matt to provide a broader context as to what the Selectboard will use to make their decision. Lynn asked Mike if it was okay to discuss his motion, Mike approved. Matt explained making a case for the demand and the people that it will serve is important for the Selectboard to hear, the value it will provide. Some of the things they are going to have to consider are available resources town-wide and the overall budget impact. Nick Donza confirmed that usage and demand is a big factor. Additionally, there are budgetary concerns and staffing. Adam motioned to amend the recommend the Town open the rink for ice use and staff the rink to adequately meet the demands of users and comply with the requirements by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and their COVID-19 exposure control plan. Mike seconded. Board approved.

#### **10 Stowe Recreation Summer Camp**

11 Matt had a meeting with Tracy Wrend and they are determined to support us in any way shape or form possible and recognize the importance of providing this service to so many people who are going to need it. She also confirmed the school will not charge the town to use the facility this summer. Matt requested the use of three separate classrooms, the gymnasium, and cafeteria. Matt reviewed the programs we've had to cancel including the Kick-Off Week, specialty clubs, programs with the pool, and the Counselor in Training program. The only challenge will be access to the schools for the last two weeks of camp; August 14<sup>th</sup>- August 21<sup>st</sup>. There is potential to use some of the Arena spaces during those two weeks.

**6:14 Adjourned**

Respectfully Submitted

Kelli Millick