

Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 8, 2022
DRAFT

- 2 The regular Recreation Commission meeting was held Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at the Stowe Arena Community Room starting at 5:05 P.M.
- 3 Members present: Lynn Altadonna, Dave Rogers, Ed Stahl, Adam Rice, Forrest Shinnars, Matt Frazee. Absent: Brett Loomis, Ryan Thibault Audience: Kelli Millick, Michael Diender, Tiffany Donza, Harry Shepard
- 4 **5:05pm called to order. Agenda Approved.**
- 5 **Adam Rice motioned to approve the minutes. All approved.**
- 6 **Annual Commission Appointments**
- 7 Matt reviewed the current members and terms for the Recreation Commission members. Matt added that Brett sends his apologies for not being able to make the last few meetings, he said Brett mentioned to him that he is happy to stay on as a commission member but if there is someone else interested in joining the commission he would be willing to give up his seat. Lynn posed the question to the commission members of if they knew anyone interested. Adam said he will do some recruiting this summer. Matt added that the Recreation Commission is a full commission with the exception of the new youth position.
- 8 After some discussion about the commission roles of Chair and Vice Chair, Adam Rice motioned to nominate Forrest Shinnars for Chair. All approved.
- 9 Adam also motioned to nominate Lynn Altadonna for the Vice Chair position. All approved.
- 10 **Memorial Park Study update**
- 11 Harry presented his study on the Memorial Park Master Plan. He explained that there are various permit requirements and deed restrictions and limits to the use of the property when it was donated to the Town of Stowe. Harry reviewed the areas and history of those parcels that make up Memorial Park- such as the Adams property donation, the western wetlands lot and the eastern wetlands lot formerly Ampersands. Through the Ampersand 250 permit conditions they donated the wetlands lots to the Town of Stowe to conserve the wetlands. Harry also explained the 250 permitting challenges and actions taken during the Arena build. We also have stormwater restrictions at this property. Harry stated that it's very important to try to frame what you're asking for from a design professional. He has been trying to frame the realm of possibilities to draw up some very big picture concepts. He presented three concepts:
- 12 **First Concept-** Work with existing Gale Center/ tennis/ basketball court area. This area was donated by the Adam's family after WWII. The deed includes language that restricts the use of this space. Tiffany Donza asked how we were satisfying the restriction right now. Harry said that he believes the ball fields are used for youth activities and school use so it was never questioned until the 2010 study when there was discussion about possibly putting courts and a skatepark there, other hard surfaces and the descendants objected. Billy Adams and Diane Percy would be points of contact for the Adams family with whom the Recreation Commission would discuss these restrictions with. Harry recalls the Adams family

objected to hard surfaces at the time of the 2010 study.

- 13** Second Concept- Upland area past the Parks Garage. Not a great public access at this site. To take advantage of getting developable programming areas here the Parks Garage would need to be relocated and improve access. There are also wetland encroachment issues at this site. Harry had a meeting scheduled with various state officials. One of the State's wetlands agent, Shannon Morsey/Morrisen, reviewed the permit history for Memorial Park and the encroachment that had occurred with the eastern wetland corridor when the Parks garage was built. Harry mentioned that the wetlands agent was very persistent that we would not receive permits for the wetlands area until we can address reestablishing the intent of the wetlands. Harry did ask if there were ways we could mitigate the issue. Harry added that their regulatory set back for wetlands line is 50 feet and the wetlands line is pretty much following our property line and many of our features are within that setback line- such as the tennis courts, gale center, and the access road.
- 14** Third Concept- Installing additions and possibly a second floor to the Stowe Arena. Structurally, it may work. The building wasn't originally designed to have a second floor, but it could be done. It would likely require an additional to the building. A second floor is not as desirable from a programming standpoint and the concept would have implications to the current use and function to the Arena. Matt asked if Harry had any sense of what a potential build out to the Arena would look like. Adam added the side of the Arena is in the Adams property. Harry suggested that the Rec Commission seriously consider an addition or changes to the front of the house of the Stowe Arena.
- 15** Tiffany asked if the upper field could be explored as a building site. Michael asked, given the space concerns, what excludes us from building a one story rec building with the tennis/pickleball courts on top. Harry said that would be possible but unusual to Vermont, there would be some challenges given our climate.
- 16** Lynn asked what the Town had budgeted for this study. Harry said the budget is \$85,000 based on some preliminary discussions with a prequalified architect.
- 17** Matt asked if the addition to the Arena is an option, would it still be viable to have the tennis and basketball courts located in the lower section. Harry said that may be possible if the Gale Center was not in that area. Matt also asked if there was a possibility for the access road to be adjusted to the outside of the property instead of through the middle. Harry said it could be possible but there would be wetlands mitigations.
- 18** Lynn thinks the next steps would be to speak with the Adam's family and get certainty that they do not want any development where the athletic fields are located. Lynn suggested that Harry make that contact, Adam asked if it would be appropriate to have a Rec Commission member attend that meeting. Harry said a Rec Commission member could join a meeting with the Adam's family. Lynn said the next step would be to go to the Selectboard after the Adam's family meeting and suggest we do not invest \$85,000 into a process that would not likely have a likely outcome, with Harry's recommendation.

19 No other business.

6:34p Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Kelli Millick