

RECREATION COMMISSION

Town of Sandown, NH

Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024

Meeting Location: Recreation Building

Members Present: Chairman George Blaisdell; Heidi Dyer; Christopher Longchamps

Members Absent: Benjamin Sharpe, ex officio

Also Present: Becky Thompson, Recreation Director

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Blaisdell at 6:30pm

Review of the 1/3/24 Minutes

Mr. Sharpe made a motion to accept the 1/3/24 minutes as written.

Seconded By: Mr. Longchamps

In Favor: Mr. Longchamps, Mr. Blaisdell, Mr. Sharpe

Abstain: Ms. Dyer

Motion passes.

Review of the 4/17/24 Minutes

Mr. Longchamps made a motion to accept the 4/17/24 minutes as written.

Seconded By: Ms. Dyer

In Favor: Mr. Longchamps, Mr. Blaisdell, Ms. Dyer

Abstain: Mr. Sharpe

Motion passes.

Contract between Sandown Recreation and The Sandown Baseball/ Softball Association final review.

The board discussed getting power to the scoreboard. Ms. Francis noted she spoke with Eversource and it would be about \$15 a month based on past history. They need the meter to be hooked up before they can turn the power on. Ms. Francis will connect with Mr. Tombarello and then Eversource to get power on.

Mr. Sharpe added that Sandown Baseball/Softball would pay the cost of the electricity and he would connect with the Finance Director to determine the best way to reimburse the town for the expense.

Ms. Francis will speak to Eversource to determine if it would be more cost effective to leave the electricity on or turn it off in-between seasons. There may be a \$50 fee each time they turn it off and on.

Mr. Sharpe noted that power also runs the shed for Highway. He will try and get it open to see what is in there.

Discussion and review of new member letters

The board received a letter of interest from Tyler Marcotte. Mr. Sharpe noted that he has done a tremendous amount for Sandown Baseball. Mr. Blaisdell questioned if he would have issues with availability during the baseball season. Mr. Sharpe didn't believe he would.

Review of quotes for the basement

Ms. Francis presented the quotes she has received so far for the mitigation of the mold in the basement from the past storm flooding. She added that she has two other companies coming to give quotes.

Mr. Sharpe questioned if they could do the work themselves. Ms. Francis added that it is black mold and needs chemicals to properly treat it.

Ms. Francis added that she spoke with Ms. Blaisdell about the possibility of insurance covering the cost. It would be hard to prove that the mold was just from one storm since the basement has a history of flooding.

Ms. Francis noted the first quote they received included replacing all the insulation which that vendor believed they needed to do. The second quote did not include that since the vendor only believed some, not all, of the insulation needed to be replaced. One of the vendors suggested they cut the sheetrock about 4" from the floor and not replace it in case there is future flooding. The board agreed. They do need to get a larger dehumidifier down there that will run continuously and automatically drain.

Ms. Francis would like to see the work completed before summer camp begins. She needs to work with John Runcie to clear out the basement of anything that needs to be thrown out. He should be able to remove the trash without getting another dumpster. They would only need to get another dumpster if they went with the vendor that was going to replace all the insulation.

Solar Power at Miller Field

Ms. Francis did investigate options for solar to power the scoreboard but because she didn't know the wattage of the scoreboard she couldn't determine cost.

Mr. Sharpe noted they found one that was \$2,500. He would consider it if there wasn't power out there and it may be an option if they were to ever put a scoreboard at the Augusta field where there isn't any power.

Budget

The board received the most current P&L which was their spending through March.

Mr. Blaisdell questioned why there was only 12% of the budget remaining in the security line item. Ms. Francis noted they pay for that contract up front.

Summer Recreation

Ms. Francis stated that the program wasn't full yet but was close. She opened up sign ups to non-residents. Plaistow recreation is full, so she expects to get a good amount of campers from surrounding towns.

She has 11 candidates for counselors and will start interviews on May 7th. She would like to have 10 staff members in order to have 100 kids. She has 8 staff members returning from last year. They increased the cost of camp to cover the increase in wages.

Ms. Dyer questioned why there wasn't more money in the recreation donation line. She suggested that money should go directly back into maintaining the building (repairing holes, paint, floors, etc.). The board discussed how that money is being collected and that they should go before the Planning Board to discuss the possibility of increasing that amount.

98

99 Planters for the Recreation building

100 Ms. Francis suggested 4-6 planters for each side of the door. If they remove the plants and weeds that are
101 there they can put down weed barrier and place rocks on top to keep the weeds to a minimum.

102

103 Ms. Dyer noted that the soil that is there needs to be built back up through dirt and compost. Then they
104 can plan some annuals in there.

105

106 Mr. Blaisdell added that he thought the brush clearing by Eversource looked good and that they should try
107 to maintain it now that it is cut back by having it mowed.

108

109 The board discussed the soccer fields and how wet they were despite the work they did to mitigate it.
110 Because of the wetness in that area it would be difficult to put in the proposed babe ruth field. Mr. Sharpe
111 would investigate the field of dreams funds and see how that funding could be used.

112

113 Ms. Francis noted that John Runcie requested to take the cedar trees that were cut down at Miller Field for
114 his personal use. The board agreed that would be fine.

115

116 Ms. Francis also added that the tree at Sealey Beach has been removed and she has someone coming to
117 give a quote to repair the railing.

118

119 Next meeting will be May 15, 2024.

120

121 Motion to appoint new member

122 Mr. Sharpe made a motion to appoint Tyler Marcotte to finish out Ben Sharpe's term.

123 *Seconded By:* Ms. Dyer

124 *All members voted in favor.*

125 *Motion passes unanimously.*

126

127 Motion to adjourn

128 Mr. Longchamps made a motion to adjourn.

129 *Seconded By:* Mr. Blaisdell

130 *All members voted in favor.*

131 *Motion passes unanimously.*

132

133 **Meeting Adjourned at 7:18pm.**

134

135 **Submitted By:**

136

137 *Andrea Cairns*

138

139 Andrea Cairns

140 Assistant to the Town Administrator