

# **SOMERS RECREATION COMMISSION**

**December 3, 2007**

Kibbe Fuller Community Center

**Present: Chris Meunier, Colleen Maniscalco, Karen Murdoch, Pam Coverdill (arrived late) , JJ Wassmuth , Rick Lees**

**Non-Members present: Jen Charette**

**Audience: Mitch Nadeau, David Pinney, Bob Cafferini**

**I. The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm**

**II. Minutes: Minutes were read of November 19, October 23, and September 10 meetings; all minutes were accepted with the following correction to the November 19 meeting : “the winter program flyer has gone out “ should read, “will go out the first week in January”.**

**III. CIP & Grant Update: There were no updates of the STEAP grant; an update on the baseball field improvements on Field Road was discussed, and the consensus was that the field will be finished once Vasseur Landscaping is completed with Fall clean-up, weather permitting. The commission voted on the order of priority for the CIP recreation commission proposals; a motion to accept the prioritized list was made by Chris Meunier and seconded by Pam Coverdill. The prioritization of the list in the order of its importance is as follows:**

- 1. Re-grade and re-seed Somersville School Fields**
- 2. Life Trail System for Seniors**
- 3. Lights on All-Purpose Fields**
- 4. Install Wooden Guardrail Fencing**
- 5. Establish new Skateboard Park**
- 6. Purchase Land for New Recreational Fields/projects**
- 7. Little League Field Improvements**

**IV. New Business: Skate Park: The commission discussed the November 29, 2007 letter to the Recreation Commission from the First Selectman regarding design, budgeting, and location for a new skateboard park (the former park was closed and dismantled the week of November 12 and there was town interest with regard to replacing the skateboard park with a new one). David Pinney charged the commission with the task to create a new park with the following requirements:**

**The park must...**

- Be easily maintained, durable
- Be compatible between skateboard use and other park activities
- Develop guidelines for park use that establish some level of control over use and a standard of behavior for participation
- Demonstrate an acceptable level of supervision and/or periodic policing

Mr. Pinney reported that the town insurance company does not require adult supervision, and that the present location of the park is not off the table for use. He suggested forming an ad hoc committee to research plans needed for the construction of a safe, acceptable skateboard park that is suitable for town use. The commission will ask Jen Charette to place a notice on the website looking for volunteers for the ad hoc skateboard park committee; Pam Coverdill suggested that a "skateboard association" be created to oversee the sport once the park has been established. Karen Murdoch volunteered to be the Recreation Commission's liaison for the Skateboard ad hoc committee

**V. Audience:** David Pinney introduced the town's new engineer, Bob Cafferini to the commission. The Recreation Commission asked Mr. Cafferini to conduct a survey of the undeveloped town land behind the multi-purpose fields on Field Road to determine the potential for new field development and for bartering logging and gravel for field construction with excavation companies.

Mitch Nadeau, a concerned citizen regarding the skateboard park closure, expressed his concerns that a suitable replacement must be found to satisfy the town residents' needs. He informed the commission that he has a group of interested citizens who would like to be a part of the planning of a new park. The commission charged Mr. Nadeau with the task of organizing this group to submit a plan/outline of the amount of space and equipment needed for a new park.

**VI. Correspondence:** The group reviewed a letter from the Strauss Engineering group which gave a preliminary study on the feasibility of new field being located on the land behind the multi-purpose fields on Field road; early estimates show that the land may not be adequate for the size of a multi-purpose field. Bob Cafferini will survey this area before the next meeting and will e-mail the commission with the results. Chris Meunier reported that she e-mailed Culver Modisette, president of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust, inquiring about the possibility of use of land trust property for recreational fields. A reply has not been received.

**VII. January Meeting agenda; nothing specific discussed**

**VI. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Meunier and seconded by Rick Lees; the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Colleen Maniscalco**