

**Minutes For  
SOMERS RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**November 3, 2008**

**7:00pm**

**Kibbe Fuller Community Center**

**Present: Karen Murdoch, Troy Montagne, Alicia Albert, Colleen Maniscalco,  
Karen McGuane, JJ Wassmuth**

**Non-Members Present: Jen Charette, Mike Provencher**

- I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order 7:18 pm**
- II. Minutes of last meeting: Minutes of October 21, 2008 Special meeting were read and accepted with the following change:**  
*Discussions of fields/facilities:*
  - 1. To insure the safety of athletes and field participants, the group voted to support upgrading all fields to a good condition “which happened to be designated by the town engineer’s assessment as 3 or lower” ie; Somersville, Maybelle Avery, Little League fields at Town Hall, and Sokol Road fields.***October meeting minutes were not available for this meeting for review.**
- III. Audience: none**
- IV. Old Business: Karen Murdoch reported that the last Skate Board Park fundraiser netted \$800. The committee is looking for ideas for more fundraisers in the future. Karen Murdoch stated that State Representative Penny Bacchiochi is supportive of the Skate Board Park Project and will research available grants or state funds. The Rec Commission is compiling statistics from the sports associations regarding projections for participation and injury stats which will affect future field use.**
- V. New Business: Soccer and Lacrosse associations are planning on fencing in the Firehouse Field along the woods to prevent loss of balls. They are requesting that the recreation commission match the funds needed for this project. This item was tabled for further discussion in the future. A Somers Eagle**

**Scout has pledged to build a Kicking/Throwing Wall at the Firehouse Field as part of his senior project; the 12x24' wall will be placed parallel to the parking lot. The Recreation Commission applauded the efforts of this community-minded young man.**

**In sight of the town engineer citing Maybelle Avery field use as part of the recreation programs concerns, Karen McGuane brought up the fact that the baseball fields at the high school are also used by Little League and are in disrepair. Discussion was made regarding including the Board of Education in future plans regarding town field use and improvement. High School sports(boys and girls soccer) will often use the Field Road fields(6&7) for practice, thus contributing to the decline in field conditions from overuse.**

**Field 3 on Field Road is getting more than usual usage from football, since games are played under the lights 3 times per week. Mike Provencher noted that damage is occurring on those fields due to cars driving on the frost-covered turf, therefore killing the grass. The Recreation Commission recommended sending an e-mail to all sports association coordinators, giving them a friendly reminder that driving on the fields is not allowed, and that teams should leave the fields in clean condition by picking up their trash and disposing of it properly.**

- VI. Parks Department and Recreation Department Reports: Mike Provencher reported that the Somersville Field drainage pipe has been dug up and replaced, thus correcting the sink holes problem. The Town did not have the \$10,000 needed to grade the field, and the SSA will not be able to donate the topsoil. The Recreation Commission agreed that the Somersville Field needed to be top priority for field updating/improvements. This field will be reseeded in the Spring of 2009 and will not be ready for play until the Fall of 2009 according to Mike Provencher. Karen McGuane reported that she has been informed that there is evidence of drinking of alcoholic beverages on town property at the Field Road fields on Sundays. The Commission asked Mike Provencher to inform**

**the town police to increase their presence and patrol the area on Sundays.**

**Mike Provencher noted that there may be potential to expand the Firehouse Field on the far side of the field (approximately 40 ft) where the scrub brush is. He stated that this area is designated as wetlands, but a permit to fill in the region with leftover road sand sweepings over the course of several years may be secured. This would be a low cost method of gaining more critical field space.**

**Mike P. reported that the parks have been winterized and there are plans to erect the skating rink again. He informed us that he would not be able to attend the December Recreation Commission meeting due to his mandatory attendance at a seminar; the commission requested that he attempt to complete his maintenance schedule/budget as charged by the commission at the October Special Meeting prior to the January 2009 meeting.**

**Jen Charette stated that she also would not be present at the December meeting. No coordinator's report was submitted.**

**VII. Correspondence : none**

**VIII. December Meeting Agenda: include discussion of the submissions from the sports associations as requested at the October 21 Special Meeting.**

**IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm**

**Respectfully Submitted By,**

**Colleen Maniscalco  
Secretary, Recreation Commission**