

# **SOMERS RECREATION COMMISSION**

## **Regular Meeting**

**May 4, 2009**

Kibbe Fuller Community Center

**Present: J.J. Wassmuth, Karen McGuane, Troy LaMontagne, Alicia Albert, Karen Murdoch, Anna Gagnon**

**Non-Members present: Mike Provencher, Jennifer Charette,**

**Audience:** Dave Pinney

### **I. The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm**

### **II. Audience**

Dave Pinney reported that there were two applications for the Summer Camp Director position, both are from within the Somers school system. We are not required to post the position outside of the Somers system if there is a reasonable pool of in-house candidates.

Dave also delivered a copy of the field construction contract for the Board's review.

### **III. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes from April 7, 2009 were read and accepted with the following changes:

~~Alan walker is looking at moving the high school baseball field to the opposite corner. This could free up more usable field area behind SES. It also makes the concession stand more accessible, therefore a possible money maker for the booster club.~~

There is a plan to level, irrigate and reseed the area behind the SES. This work is dependent on funding from the Somers Booster Club, which is not yet available. It is Alan Walker's opinion that if this work is done, the baseball field should be relocated. This will possibly make some more space available. This would also improve the field alignment with respect to the sun set.

### **IV. Coordinator's Report / Parks Report**

Coordinator's Report – see attached. Donations are requested for summer camp: a VCR, garden hoses, board games. The water slide for the camp is on order.

JJ and Anna talked to the Superintendent about a solution to rain-day summer camp use of the schools. Currently, the campers are only allowed in the gym of the high school. He said he would try to come up with a better solution in a week or so.

A summer volleyball league is starting. Four teams have signed up so far.

Parks Report - There was discussion about kids playing around on baseball fields that have been freshly lined in preparation for a game. A suggestion was made to place a sign at the field stating that the field had been prepared for a scheduled game, and requesting that the field not be used.

There was discussion about fencing to keep cars off the fields. Chain link fencing is the least expensive option. There is a safety issue with cars being on the field. Mike will put signs up that say "Please do not drive on the grass."

Netting and bases are on order for the small baseball field at Kibbe Fuller.

Bulldozers are in place to spread dirt to level the Somersville fields this week. These fields should be ready for next spring. Mike has a water reel that the school uses for watering, but it required 100 psi water pressure to operate. The Somersville fields are usually damp and should be ok growing grass. The fire department could pump water onto the field if needed to get through a dry spell.

Diana Childs has planted flowers at the Kibbe Fuller playground and has requested mulch from Mike to finish the beds.

## **V. Old Business**

Field Expansion Project – The contract has been signed. Surveying was started today. Troy is working on a plan to add another baseball field to Field Road Park. The Capital Region Council of Government has a GIS mapping service that can provide property lines. There is a wetlands area in the middle of an area that could be used for another baseball field. The Recreation Commission needs to work on a plan for an additional field for baseball.

There was discussion on the use of Avery's property for the truck traffic from the gravel extraction. Use of other property will have a cost and reduce the income to the town for the project. Mike will monitor the truck traffic in the coming months prior to the start of the summer camp and determine if there is a safety issue or not. Signs will be placed at the park entrance indicating that the park is under construction.

## **VI. New Business**

JJ and Dave discussed a grant for sports lighting from Musco. The grant is actually not for new lighting, but for energy improvements for existing lighting. There is \$9.5 million available statewide, with \$56,000 for Somers. The town is looking at alternative sources of energy at the firehouse. The firehouse has an expansive south facing roof and hot water floor heating. This makes it a good candidate for a solar heating system. There may be additional funding sources for energy conservation.

Dave would like to have cost-benefit information for all town facilities. Examples include costs of replacement ballasts vs. energy savings expected.

Troy has not yet received requested baseball field dimensions. Dimensions are needed to assess viable locations for additional fields.

The Board discussed the "Extreme Field Makeover" (sponsored by New England Sports Turf Managers Association) and discussed speaking with Alan Walker about the possibility of getting one of the high school fields improved.

**VII. Correspondence**  
No correspondence.

**VIII. Adjournment**  
The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Murdoch  
Secretary, Somers Recreation Commission