

**Minutes For**  
**SOMERS RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**April 5, 2010 7:00 PM**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**

**Members Present: Karen McGuane, Alicia Albert, Troy LaMontagne, JJ Wassmuth, Karen Murdoch**

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

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was call to order at 7:10 pm.

**II. Minutes of last meeting(s)**

The minutes of March 1, 2010 were read and accepted as written.

**III. Coordinator Report / Parks Report**

Mike responded to a request by the Ellington Tennis coach to lower the tennis court nets to the correct height. He was also asked to look at fixing cracks in the tennis courts. Since the courts are to be resurfaced in a few months, this will not be done at this time.

The parks are all open, buildings and bathrooms open. Started lining fields with spring sports done first.

Mike reported that Bruce has been moved to the Highway Department and that Mike is doing all park maintenance alone. He has been instructed to not do lining of athletic fields on school grounds.

The prison workforce is scheduled to shingle the roof of the police station and then the gazebo at the park. Getting quotes for painting of the gazebo, will need special paint for the concrete and will be a cost exceeding the normal maintenance budget.

Jen reported that the Kibbe Fuller building has been approved for use as a probate court. The basement will only be used for storage once the mold remediation is completed.

Registration for Summer camp will be on-line this year, but there will be no collection of money. Parents will have to print the form and mail it to the Recreation Coordinator. There will be no money collected at camp.

Mike and Jen discussed the recent letter that was sent to association heads regarding not playing on park fields until after April 1. Apparently some teams were practicing on the fields prior to the official park opening. All permits for field usage are stipulated with April 1 as the start date. The board tabled further discussion of this topic until a later date.

#### **IV. Audience**

Michelle Dalessio representing Central Connecticut Co-ed Soccer League requested use of fields for adult soccer from April through June. There would be two games per weekend maximum. A motion was passed by the board to allow the Central Connecticut Co-ed Soccer League to use field road at 8:30 am on Sundays at a cost of \$50 per game. The league would have to file a permit request with Jen.

Kaz Kruzel representing an adult pick-up soccer league discussed the possibility of the league using park facilities on a regular basis. The board had previously discussed this issue and decided it would ask for \$500 for the season and require participants to sign waivers. Kaz reported that the participants would not be willing to sign waivers or pay the \$500 fee and would likely go to a nearby town to play. The board further discussed the need to set policy for fees for use of facilities by non-affiliated sports associations. The subject was tabled for further discussion.

Mark Murdoch, President of Somers Lacrosse Association and Alan Walker, Somers Athletic Director discussed the need for lining of fields on school property that are used for recreation. The school administration has mandated that school personnel are to concentrate on maintaining school athletic fields and the appearance of the school complex and not to maintain non-school athletic fields. Mike has been instructed by the First Selectman to not line athletic fields that are on school property. Mark discussed his upcoming game schedule and the need to have the front field on MBA lined by April 15 and the back field lined by May 1. Mark discussed that in past years the Lacrosse Association has had to pay for field lining separately, and that since lacrosse is the “sport of season” other recreation associations should be expected to help defer the costs if lining has to be contracted separately. Jen took the action to discuss the issue with Jim McFeat and see if the lining could be fit into the school maintenance schedule.

Approximately 20 SHS students were in attendance at the meeting to learn how civic boards function as part of the high school Civics curriculum.

#### **V. Old Business:**

See Audience discussion regarding Field Usage Fees. The board decided that this issue needs to be discussed further at length at a future meeting.

## **VI. New Business:**

A request was made by Shaker Pines / Crescent Lake to hold a softball challenge at Field Road Park with softball games and a picnic. There are no other conflicts with the requested dated. A motion was passed to allow the Skaker Pines/Crescent Lake group to use two fields (?) and the gazebo for \$100 for the one day.

See Audience discussion regarding use of BOE fields.

The board discussed the possibility for imposing fees or other actions on the recreation association for violations of field permit usage (i.e. using the fields too early). This discussion was tabled.

The board further discussed the need for a Recreation Commission policy on fees for usage of town recreation facilities. The board agreed to revisit the commission by-laws with respect to the definition of affiliated associations and use that information as guidance for setting policy on amounts of fees to be charged for various groups. The discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

## **VII. Correspondence**

See Audience discussion regarding Central Connecticut Co-ed Soccer League.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Murdoch  
Recreation Commission Secretary