

SOMERS RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes – Special Meeting- Tuesday, October 3rd, 2011

6:30 PM Kibbe Fuller Community Center

I. Call to Order – 6:39 pm

II. Audience/Attendance:

- a. Members – Karen Murdoch, Karen McGuane, Steve Wiochik, Scott Novak, and Jeff Jablonski
- b. Non-Members – Jen Charette, Bruce Urbon, Todd Rolland, Lisa Pellegrini, Jim McFeat

III. Minutes:

- a. 8/9 and 9/12 Special Meeting Minutes approved.

IV. Lacrosse Update:

- a. **Fall program.** The schools addressed the patch that needed to be mowed and will address remaining LAX requests assuming they do not fall after school fall sports have ended. LAX season will run through Halloween. There are several factors that impact the ability of the school staff to provide proper fields available for both school sports and rec sports programs:
 - i. Mower problems – Schools will not look to replace until it has stopped working for good.
 - 1. Including the addition of all the rain, irrigation and fertilization causes grass to grow quicker and the need for frequent mowing during the spring, summer, and fall seasons.
 - ii. Manpower – impacts when fields can be mowed compared to existing school area upkeep.
 - 1. The school staff returned the LAX goals to the fields after bringing them to the winter storage area.
 - 2. The schools did ask that the FH goals be returned and pinned after the LAX teams were done using the FH field.
 - iii. Field availability, both schools and town fields.
 - iv. Karen Murdoch asked why the town did not redirect funds for another town employee to assist with the needs of the schools and town to mow and maintain fields. Tax increases has resulted in funding for several programs within the town, including road maintenance.
 - v. Karen Murdoch also informed the Rec Commission that the LAX organization is putting together a proposal to combine the Schools and town staffs under the Town DPW.
 - vi. Jeff Jablonski asked if the games played during the fall were town only games or they included teams from other towns. Karen replied that other towns were involved and Jeff then recommended that in the best interest of the kids involved the Somers LAX should look to other towns for assistance in providing fields to play on during the fall season.
 - vii. Karen also asked why the outside contract with the mowing vendor was eliminated for 2011. Todd Rolland responded that there was several complaints with the quality provided by the vendor.
- b. **Summer Program:**
 - i. It's important to be proactive with the schools and town as we get closer to the winter months and eventual Spring sports seasons.
 - ii. The Rec Commission requests that the LAX, Soccer, Little League, and Softball organizations meet in January with the Town DPW and Schools maintenance

team to review field schedules for both rec and school programs to understand where issues may arise and to ensure that fields are prepared as needed according to the sports schedules.

- iii. The town DPW also informed the commission that they were adding to Maintainers to the DPW staff. This should help with maintaining town fields.

V. DPW Update

- a. Work continues on the “All purpose field” at Field Rd. park.
- b. Minors/Majors fields are closed in preparation for work to be done.
- c. The tennis court are at Town hall has been cleared in preparation for a small playground area.
- d. Fence contractors needed to price out batting cages at Field Rd.
 - i. Haste in Agawam
 - ii. Ct. Valley Fence Co.
- e. Kaz Kruzell has a friend who has offered lift services for the town to assist with the lighting fixtures at field rd. park.

VI. Rec Dept. / Town Update

- a. The Rec basketball program is alive and well.
- b. Registrations were conducted and several signed up. Registration will continue.
- c. Permits have been submitted for necessary gym time associated with tryouts.
- d. The town is moving the Rec Dept. across the hall at Kibbe Fuller to create a Emergency Op Center (EOP) which will be updated (using requested FEMA aid) with appropriate technology and generator equipment. Intent is to virtually connect, using VPN, all town buildings to one support center in the event of an emergency also creating a logistical approach for all town employees to communicate and transfer data.
- e. The town is also looking bring on a computer intern to assist with creating a town “schedule” incorporating the needs of the BOE, SOS, and Rec Department.
- f. The town continues to look at solar energy and expects to apply solar grants by 12/31/2011. Options are being reviewed including solar, geothermal & solar, and air handling units. The town is also looking at updating it’s energy bill to include Net Metering which would allow an inter-connected supply of energy for the town.
- g. The Rec Dept, and Commission still needs to meet with the school principals to discuss the fall and winter gym schedules. Karen Murdoch was looking to schedule a meeting with the principals.
- h. Our next regularly scheduled meeting, Tuesday, November 1st will include invitations to all sports organizations for them to attend and provide their 2012 board and financials.
- i. The Rec Commission has a new member, Lori Careno.
- j. Lastly, the Rec Commission has requested that the meeting day for our “regular” monthly meeting be changed to the 1st Tuesday of every month.

VII. Next “Regular” meeting – November 1st, 7 pm at Kibbe Fuller