

## Town of Stratham



### Stratham Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes September 3, 2024

- I. At 7:02pm Kate called the meeting to order.
- II. Members in attendance: Kate Dardinski, Jessie Hook, Rebecca Waltz, Brent Scott, Ryan Guerette  
Guests: Seth Hickey Stratham Parks and Rec Director, Wendy Spicer, Zach Cherry, Jen Guyton, Julie Lacasse, Brandon Peck, Chris Passmore  
Absent: Allison Knab
- III. Consideration of minutes from previous meeting.  
Brent made motion to approve August minutes as written, Kate seconded, all approve.
- IV. Treasurers Report-Seth updated on Rec Revolving Fund Balance. Ryan updated on his progress on Rec Revolving Fund reporting. Brent discussed where the interest being earned on the Rec Revolving Fund is going.
- V. New/ongoing Business-  
Kate made a motion for Ryan to act as Treasurer for Rec Commission until March 2025. Rec Commission approved a stipend of \$3000 per year to be paid to treasurer.

Mountain Bike Club at Exeter High School – Request made to SRC asking for permission for use of town van. They are seeking approval from high school as well. They have 4 races, would utilize van from 11am-7pm. Seth would drive van and tow trailer. Jessie made a motion in favor of Exeter High School Mountain Bike Club utilizing town van if school/town approves usage. Rebecca seconded motion, all in favor. Club to cover cost of gas and reimburse at current IRS mileage rate.

Sau16 softball field use request/discussion- Wendy Spicer discussed that program does not have own dedicated field space. Looking to utilize Stratham fields Spring/early summer. Possibly fall as they are adding new programs. They would be looking to use for 2 practices per team per week plus one weekend game. Approximately 90 minutes at a time.

About 51 girls in the program are from Stratham. Inquired last year and the rate they were quoted was too much for program. Stratham has two Softball fields. In past entered into written contracts with towns for field use. The league has traditionally helped with field upkeep during season and preseason.

Seth looking at what it costs to maintain fields- in past and going forward. SRC needs to decide on equation for fee. SRC agrees to field usage, cost will be reasonable based off expenses.

Wendy looking for spring usage decision by Jan/Feb so program can plan.

Basketball- Basketball Board members in attendance.

Zach discussed budget- in red last year, travel program is net even. Raising some fees- Kindergarten will stay same, grades 1 & 2 \$60; grades 3 & 4 \$80; grades 5&6 \$90. 5/6 program requires 2 referees per game. Raising fees will help cover costs.

Sponsorships for uniforms -Zach reached out to HRCU, as they had expressed interest previously. Discussed One-time use uniforms/reusable-committee would be interested in reusing uniforms. They need to decide how it would affect sponsorships.

Schedule/registration - Goal is to start evaluations/practice in early November.

Feedback from families was more practices prior to games starting; Court space availability is determining factor. Discussed options for practices -Sundays, Fridays.

Practice times 5-8pm. Brent asked about Talbot gym usage. Discussed Saturday afternoon practices for older kids after k-2 games. It was suggested that could distribute cost of CMS gym time across teams utilizing space.

Reviewed Survey-balance of teams was concern, especially with girl's teams.

Coach training -Chris discussed supporting coaches with development training; how to coach a team, core values for teams/kids.

Fishing Derby-Heron Pond; Seth working with neighbors surrounding pond as well as trout unlimited and fish and game. Aiming for spring

Bylaws and Sports Handbook next steps-

Goal is to have the Sports Handbook be a working document/guide that will continue to evolve and be added to.

Coaches/sports boards member guidelines -Need procedure for removing coaches added to handbook. Discussed adding the statement to handbook that SRC has the right to dismiss a coach for any reason at any time.

## VI. Report of Stratham Parks and Rec Director

Community Postcards sent- open house Wednesday Sept 11, vendors coming to answer questions

Youth Sports- Fall Soccer- First grade girl wants to play on boys' team. SRC approves girl playing in boys' program.

Renting Exeter's GPS field liner for soccer fields. Training one of DPW employees to use. Renting for \$400 per week; quality control; if purchased soccer would be responsible for cost.

Attended a demonstration of field dragging machine-going to budget advisory committee.

TMAC-proposed new lease regulations; could go to town meeting in March. Trail work day September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Stevens Park project-DPW director recommended moving overflow parking to just below DPW garage. Still waiting on drawings to see if that would change number of new parking spots, New location would offer drier parking and leave other location available for future programming.

Pats Peek-Dates have been set. Program registration will be open to Stratham residents only for first 2 weeks, then open for nonresidents.

Climbing program-looking to start in November, on weekdays for middle school students

VII. Motion to adjourn at 9:12 pm, all in favor, meeting adjourned.