

DRAFT

Town of Stratham



Stratham Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2025

- I. Kate called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
- II. Members in attendance: Kate Dardinski, Jessie Hook, Rebecca Waltz, Ryan Guerette
Guests: Ray Faust, Rick Dolce, Seth Hickey, Zach Cherry
Absent: Allison Knab
- III. Treasurer's Report -summer camp over \$100,000 in revenue, missing staff payroll.
For 2024 summer camp payroll was about \$70,000. Fall soccer- expenses not in.
- V. Report of Parks and Rec Director Seth updated on his new role with the Town.
Pats Peak ski program opening up to non-Stratham residents this week.
- VII. New/Ongoing Business
 - a. Baseball Board- Discussed pros of this season-board expanded and worked well together.
 - Rookies' final cookout was well received. Clean-up day and opening day were successful.
 - Small teams-rookies had 8/9 players per team; focus on reps/playing time. Almost 50 kids 6 teams. Minors and majors 3 teams instead of 2. Struggled to fill teams at times due to schedules. Plan to adjust schedule
 - Cons-scheduling. Ray is taking over scheduling this year, in past done by different town.
 - Some complaints about evaluations- They try hard to make equal teams. Need to get enough pitchers and catchers on each team. Getting coaches earlier will be helpful in this.
 - Surveys- Results showed experience overall good for players, 28 responses (which Rebecca said is consistent with all sports surveys). Possibly offer survey on team snap. Overall consensus was that everyone wants more play time. Extend season, more indoor.
 - Schedule- Goal is to provide schedule up front and more notice for opening ceremony. Ceremony may not be on opening day, just baseball day even after season begins.
 - Coaches meeting early in season.
 - January- open registration
 - February-Hopefully Clinic (last year end of March). Gym time is difficult. Hope to use SMS. Rookies, minors, majors.

- March 1st - Goal to have teams formed. Coaches meet teams and have gym time.
- April- Try to start games in early April. Weather dependent.
- Games/Practices-Minors and Majors will be Monday-Friday games and practices.
Saturday T-Ball 8-9, followed by Rookies 10-12.
- Majors/minors will use softball field at Stevens, in addition to SHP. Will need to purchase small moveable mound. Rookies may need to use softball fields for practice
- All Stars-Formed second team this year, discussed many families not aware of All Star program.
- Fall field maintenance being finished by Hillside and fields will be ready for Spring.
- Softball-Splitting into own board, overall positive experiences
- Zach will provide financials to baseball board. field use policy will be provided as well.
- b. Next meeting goals/discussion items:
Spread the word about Rec Commission and bring those interested to meeting
Sports policies
How can Rec Commission support Rec Department
Seth discussed having a UNH professor to help with a planning discussion

VIII. At 8:30 Rebecca made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kate seconded.

Next meeting November 13th at 7pm