

Town of Stratham



Stratham Recreation Commission

May 30, 2025

- I. At 10:01am Brent called the meeting to order.
- II. Members in attendance- Kate Dardinski, Brent Scott, Rebecca Waltz, Jessie Hook
Absent-Allison Knab, Ryan Guerette
Guests-Seth Hickey-Parks & Rec Director, Zach Cherry- Parks and Rec, Drew Goddard
Baseball Board, Sean Burke Baseball Board
- III. Great Bay Baseball Field Usage Request- Sean and Drew discussed the Great Bay All Star program. Looking to host 11U tournament at SHP, mentioned that they don't necessarily want to host, but Newmarket can't host and Epping would if Stratham is not able to, but they only have one field and hosted last year.
 - a. Discussed goal of All Star Program -To extend rec season, kids must try out for team. In past one team at each age group which played weekend tournaments. Exeter has created a summer league for 11u with 8 towns.
 - b. This year two 11U teams, one will have weekday games and less tournaments, second team will be Stratham and Exeter kids and only do tournaments. Roughly 21 games w/ 8 practices for teams.
11u little Fenway in Maine- Goal is to be able to attend this tournament every year.
12u Cooperstown- Hope to be able to send team every year.
 - c. Program Fees- \$50 cover baseballs, hats and umps, additional \$27 if shirt is needed. Newmarket handled payment of fees this year for All Star program.
Stratham last handled Long Horn in fees in 2019.
 - d. Field maintenance costs for tournament -Sean said no additional costs due to games, Sean said he and other coaches have been doing field maintenance. Everyone agreed the fields maintain themselves better when used. Sean and Drew noted Spike drag is missing, Seth to look into.
 - e. Baseball Costs-Last year baseball had \$3300 loss, does not include \$1500 field maintenance (comes from general fund). Sean said he was not aware of baseball budget
Rec revolving has always covered tournament fees for All Stars, towns have each covered different tournaments. Stratham covered cost of Barrington Tournament last year as well as trophy's.
Paid \$900 for umps last year, \$75 per game.

- f. No banners sold this year, some year's money has gone to directly to Rec Revolving and some years friends of Stratham baseball. Sean discussed that Corporate fundraising and banner programs will help create surplus
Drew and Sean noted All Star costs should be down this year due to less tournaments.
- g. Friends of Stratham baseball- Started 21 years ago. Discussion on transparency/oversight:
 - They have bought new catchers equipment, rebuilt batting cages, Drew thinks about \$40K in account.
 - Drew noted primary income streams for Friends of Stratham Baseball- portion of Copley properties pumpkin sales and snack bar. In past year banner sales.
 - Snack bar is also used to pay for umpires.
 - Seth asked if Friends of Baseball could cover tournament fees this year. Drew said most likely.

VI. Moving forward- Kate suggested post season meeting to plan for future, and discuss how to best support baseball program for kids.

- All Star Program
- How to grow/maintain program.
- How are towns supporting program and are towns all on same page.
- Which towns to participate in regular and All Star league. Seth mentioned Epping may be creating own program.
- What should registration be for baseball programs. Look at program costs.

VII. Miscellaneous

- a. Hillside Maintenance- if work is not acceptable need to let Seth know he will follow up with them. Noted that they are paid through general fund not rec revolving.
- b. Cal Ripken vs little league- Discussed why we are part of Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth - insurance through Cal Ripken, rules, safety, state tournament.
- c. Youth Sports Guidelines- Rebecca noted they are a working document.

Kate made a motion to approve field use by Great Bay All Star program for the summer. Rebecca seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

VIII. At 11:08 am a motion was made to adjourn meeting. All in favor.