

**Town of Sunapee: Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2023**

- **In Attendance: Steve Bourque, Jesse Socci, Dan Whitmoyer, Nick Grant (Zoom), Tim Berube (7:28), Isabelle Correa (Student Representative).**
- **Meeting called to order by Steve at 7:03PM.**
- **Multiple votes took place during this meeting, all highlighted below**
- **All outstanding meeting minutes have been approved unanimously (April, May, June).**
- **Attached File(s): None**

***Note:** Recreations June 2023 meeting was not considered to be official because of a date change that was not on the calendar. In this July meeting, we have reviewed and revoted on the June meeting so that our discussions and votes can count. July meeting updates are the bottom of each section of June minutes in bold.*

Topic 1: Town Master Plan Survey Thoughts

- As a result of the survey, many people in town would like to see improved and expanded hiking and biking trails.
- While this is something that we can keep in mind moving forward, this is not really a Recreation topic. Some of the current trails go through and have access points on Recreation land, but this would mostly fall under Conservation.
- As far as Recreation is concerned, land is already very scarce and we think that it may be difficult to expand.
- Recreation or Town Highway does not currently maintain, it is our understanding that this falls to a hired forester through Conservation.
- If an opportunity presents itself, we can look further into it, however for now this topic is tabled.
- **Update after reviewing – The Matt Frye UNH survey is almost ready to go live. Steve is working with him and has asked the committee for any final thoughts, and everyone feels that the survey can move forward.**

Topic 2: Coffin Park Update

- Steve stated that water and sewer have done their part to plant seed and they believe they are now done with the park.
- Steve stated that the grass is starting to fill in a little bit more.
- Charleen expressed that we should, at the very least, try to get them to spread more seed.

- Steve stated that he has heard from Josh that in the works for Coffin Park is a more detailed renovation, which includes filling in and leveling off some areas, making more of a pathway going up the hill, rather than just the hill going straight up.
- **Update after reviewing – Steve stated that the rain has helped to jumpstart the little grass that was there and the park is now filling in better.**

Topic 3: Open Projects / Fields / Beach

- Dewey Beach will be getting a new gate. This gate, as well as the restrooms will have automatic locks placed on them. They will be set to unlock at 6am and lock at 10pm. Beach staffing is 9AM to 5PM.
- Signage stating that the automatic locks will be going into place with the lock hours was briefly discussed. Not sure how we will approach this yet as it would require another sign permit.
- Andover Fence has provided a quote of 26K for replacing the large majority of the fence at Dewy Field.
- Cleanscape Landscaping will begin their portion of the Dewy work on 6/26. Their quote is 40K, however they expect to come in under budget. 20K of this will be covered by some encumbered funds.
- Matt Frye expects to have a survey for us all to review by the end of June. His cost is going to be 4K.
- The 50K total for the above is set to come out of the Sugar River Bank Fundraising Account. Current Balance is 122K. Steve also stated that the balance of the Veterans Field Trust Fund was 62K.
- **Jesse made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to 50K for field improvements from Andover Fence and Cleanscape, as well as the for the work that Matt Frye is doing on the survey to come from the SRB fundraising account. Nick seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.**
- **Update after review - Steve stated that the new employee who is working in the grounds department used to work for a security company and is familiar with the automatic locks. This should help make getting the auto locks for the beach and bathrooms easier.**
- **There was a question posed as to if the locks would work in the winter time for snowmobiles. The conclusion was that the gate would be open as normal.**
- **United has stated they would love to help with some donated materials at Dewy, making the cost of this project lower.**
- **Jesse made a motion to approve the up to 50K improvements, based on the language used above in the June meeting. Dan seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.**

Topic 4: Portable Mounds

- There has been a miscommunication between Recreation and Friends of Sunapee Recreation about who is paying for the mounds.

- Mounds were ordered under the belief that Friends of Sunapee Recreation was covering the \$2800 for the mounds and that Recreation was going to pick up any remaining cost + shipping.
- Meeting Minutes state that \$2800 was approved by Friends of Sunapee Recreation and that we voted to accept those funds as well as cover the remaining cost + shipping.
- Charleen stated that she never saw an invoice and that Friends of Sunapee Recreation has not voted to approve the \$2800 and that they only said it would be up to \$1800, but no official vote took place.
- There was some discussion on how this occurred, but could not come to a consensus.
- Steve stated that we have two options. The first is to return the second mound, the second is to keep it and find another way to fund it.
- Dan stated that it would be foolish of us to return the mound, that we should keep it because it makes us flexible with our facilities.
- Jesse seconded Dans comment, having one at both fields so either field could flip between baseball and softball makes the most sense. He also added that there will be a freight shipping cost to return the mound anyhow, so we might as well find a way to keep it.
- **Dan made a motion to approve the full purchase of the movable mounds, \$2800, out of the SRB fundraising account, and if Friends of Sunapee Recreation goes back to a vote and decides to move forward on helping cover the cost, we will place the amount that they donate back into the fundraising account. Jesse seconded. Vote unanimous.**
- **Portable mounds are still out on the field, waiting for some dry sunny days to get the moisture out of them before putting them away. Steve says that they are definitely wet but holding up well.**
- **Dan made a motion to approve the portable mounds based on the language above. Jesse Seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.**

Topic 5: Camp Update

- Some weeks still have up to 10 spots open
- Field Trips, Training, Payroll, and Shirts have all been covered cost wise
- We are currently in the black, but not by much. More updates to come.
- **Update after review – Camp is going very well. Upcoming trips include the New London Barn Playhouse, Fisher Cats game, and the Fells).**

Topic 6: 4th of July

- Watermelon Race is on
- Recreation will be sponsoring the parade. Steve and PTO working to make that happen.
- There will be plenty of vendors in the harbor, including bands.
- Hot Dog eating contest looks like it will occur, however this is not sponsored by Recreation or the Town of Sunapee as it requires some additional insurance coverage. This will be a private event if held. They will need to fill out a land use form.

- **Update after review – Everything went well this week. Hot dog eating contest was cancelled (private event), donations were great for covering the fireworks. There has been some discussion about the town shifting to more of an Old Home Day style celebration (to include fireworks).**

Topic 7: Sponsorship Funds

- **Steve stated that he needed approval from the committee to move the \$4500 donated in sponsorships from the fundraising account to the Baseball / Softball / T-Ball / Babe Ruth Account. Charleen made a motion, Dan seconded, vote unanimous.**
- Steve asked if we wanted to continue this for all sports. Everyone agreed that this was a great thing to keep going and expand as we had many people reach out to help sponsor teams. This helps us cover the operating cost of the sports so that we can keep costs low.
- **Update after review - Steve asked if this was something that needed to continue to come back to the committee (donation to a specific account / activity). Jesse stated that if it was a donation to a specific activity then that's where said funds have to go, the committee cannot change the route of those funds with a vote, so he did not have an issue with it. Committee members present agree.**
- **Update after review - Jesse made a motion to approve the \$4500 transfer as stated in the June meeting, and to approve Steve not having to come to the committee to move activity specific funds from the fundraising account to the activity it needs to be moved into, and instead simply deposit activity specific donations into the proper account. Dan seconded. Tim abstained (had just come in the room). Everyone else was in favor.**

Topic 8: General Notes / Updates

- Steve stated that the town website will soon be updated
- Steve mentioned that he was planning on renting a sod cutter to salvage some of the grass that will be removed from Dewy to correct the infield arch on Veterans Field.
- Steve stated that J&S Auto has been extremely generous and helpful for us. They are researching and going to cover the cost of purchasing and installing an electronic scoreboard at Dewy Field. He stated that he needs to go back to them for a big check photo for social media. J&S Auto has already sponsored a lot for Sunapee Recreation.
- There was some discussion on where will this be operated from.
- Jesse stated that many of these boards are no longer plug in and can be operated by Wi-Fi, or in some cases even right from a phone.
- Team photos was brought up as a topic. They had gone away in the past because there were some complaints about package pricing, but some seem to want it back. After discussion, it was concluded that we would have a "photo day" to give parents an opportunity to take photos of their children, as well as a team photo (on their own devices), and that we would invite a photographer in, if they wanted to come knowing

the risk of an unknown amount of sales. We would use this as a “dry run”, and plan accordingly for following seasons based on feedback.

- Charleen stated that the grant intent form is in and set to come back soon. They usually come out to visit the site in July / August.
- **Update after review – Still working on deciding if a sod cutter would be worth it, town website still moving along and will be updated shortly, still working closely with J&S Auto on various activities / donations.**
- **Steve will look into who could come back to test out a team photo day.**

July Meeting Updates / Topics

- Soccer sign-ups are live – same fee as last season
- Trip to NYC sign-ups are live
- Rock Bass Derby sign-ups are live. Awards will be done by Nick in Sunapee Harbor
- Newport / Mount Royal has contacted Steve about possibly doing a smaller league for soccer as we do for basketball.
 - Currently in the MV league for soccer
 - Steve also mentioned that there was a possibility both could be done, however it would take away from some practice time.
 - Jesse stated that if both could be done, then he thinks it would be beneficial to be able to get the players more games in, and to have more options to play games when the weather is not cooperating, such as this spring with baseball / softball / t-ball.
 - Dan and Tim both stated that they had no interest in leaving the MV league at all because it is very well run and put together.
 - A question was asked if we could possibly find an upper valley league and have Newport and Mount Royal join us in that league.
 - Basketball league was discussed as well – possibly finding a different avenue to go. Tim stated it is tough just playing the same few teams all the time. Lots of lopsided scores.
 - Steve is going to pass along our thoughts and see what further discussion / research into leagues will bring.
- There was some discussion about uniforms and if we want to keep a supply of pants / shorts for parents that may not be able to afford or find a pair for the season.
- No one opposed this, however it would require Steve to keep a stock of them.
- Steve stated that now with the sponsorship dollars attached to each sport, it may be in the cards to simply include pants / shorts with each uniform that the athletes get to keep. This also cuts down on storage space needed as well as ensures the uniforms are brand new each season.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:19PM

Next Meeting: August 8, 2023 at 7PM