



APPROVED

Barrington, NH Recreation Commission Minutes
May 18, 2020

Present: Dale Sylvia, Doug Langdon, Jim Noble, Steve Graves, Jessica Tennis, Sarah Bailey, Alex McCormack-Kuhman

Guests:

Absent:

Call To Order: Steve called the meeting to order at 5:38pm

Old Business:

Past Minutes:

Steve motioned to approve the March 16th minutes, Doug seconded, vote unanimous.

Steve motioned to approve the April 4th minutes, Jim seconded, vote unanimous.

Steve motioned to approve the April 8th minutes, Doug seconded, vote unanimous.

Doug motioned to approve the April 22nd minutes, Steve seconded, vote unanimous.

New Business:

Revolving Fund Report:

Beginning Balance: \$642,046.62

Ending Balance: \$649,240.58

Participant Report

There were no participants in April due to the COVID-19 shut down.

College Scholarships:

The Commission discussed the selection process for the determining who will receive the scholarships. Dale suggested each commissioner write down their top three and discuss from there. Doug suggested the department give recommendations, but the office employees know which applicants are who. Each Commissioner stated their top three applicants. The Commission then discussed which applicants should be awarded which scholarship. The Scholarships will be awarded to applicants L \$1,000 and O \$500.

The Commission asked about online applications for next year. The department is going to look into creating an online application.

Dumpster: Jessie recapped the budget cut of the dumpster. About \$3000 comes out of the operating budget for the dumpster that is utilized by the Rec Department, Food Pantry and Library. Conner has said that typically each department's maintenance person is responsible for putting trash in their personal vehicles and bringing it to the transfer station. Conner has recommended that as a solution for our department. Jessie looked into other possible dumpster companies and explained them to the commission. The commissioners each felt that requiring employees to put trash in personal vehicles puts undue liability on the department and town. Jessie calculated the cost of paying mileage for employees to transport trash and found that it would cost more money to pay mileage than pay for the

dumpster. Doug asked if Jessie has been in communication with the Library as they also use the dumpster. Jessie has had conversations with the Director of the Library about the dumpster. The commission discussed possible solutions to keep the dumpster. The Commission had questions they wanted to discuss with Conner. Jessie offered to have that conversation with Conner, but the Commission felt that they should be the people to have the conversation. Dale is going to meet with Conner to get some more answers and find a solution that works for the town and the department.

Project Updates:

Tracy and Andy recommended that the department look into moving the food pantry to and retrofitting that space into our offices. They suggested the Highway Department as a possible new location. After looking into that option, it was determined that moving the food pantry would be multi year process and not a viable solution to the immediate need for new office space. The department met with Careno who brought a fire engineer. They said that the gym would need to be fire separated from the library as well as the food pantry to be classified as separate occupancies. They are developing quotes and concepts for the fire separations and the addition off the front of the building. The Commission discussed the various projects and the priority of each.

One of the arguments made by Select Board members for the department paying for the fire separations was that if the department was willing to sprinkle the building, then why not pay for the fire separation, but the reason the fire engineer was hired was because the department wouldn't be able to pay for a sprinkler system.

The Library is also looking into possibilities for themselves, they are considering an addition on the other side of the building. If both departments built off the current footprint a sprinkler system would be necessary. Careno is working to get quotes for the fire separations needed by the next select board meeting. Jessie suggested moving summer camp to one of the schools to alleviate the need for a higher occupancy in the gym, since that is the only program that requires more occupants than the current allowance. The commission asked if there would be roadblocks for the addition without summer camp staff utilizing the current office. The department and commission agree that there is still a need for more office space for the full-time department staff. Jessie has had conversations with Conner and stressed the need for new office space year-round.

Summer Camp Status:

The department has been working with other recreation professionals in the Seacoast area to get information about what surrounding towns are doing regarding summer camp. Jessie expressed concern with liability, the quality of programming that the department would be able to offer. With the current guidelines, the waterslide would be unusable as well as the playground. The ratio would need to be 1 counselor to 4 campers with groups of no more than 10 that never intermingle with other groups. Check in and check out would have to be staggered, temp checks, health screening, employee ppe, and no use of busses. Access to cleaning supplies is limited and would be crucial for the ability to maintain sanitization. There is no way for the department to monitor where staff and participants go between camp hours. Jessie talked to Barrington Village School who is currently operating for the under school aged children of essential workers, Jessie was also under the impression that Kidazzle won't be operating. Doug motioned to support the department's decision of no Summer Camp, Jim seconded. Dale voted yes to canceling and letting families and staff know as soon as possible. Steve voted no because he wanted to wait for the governor's guidelines before finalizing a decision. The motion passed 3 to 1.





Jessie explained that the department is exploring alternative programming for the summer. The commission felt that the department shouldn't be offering specialty camps because the risk is the same as regular camp. Doug suggested tabling the final decision, Jim said that he felt there should be no camps at all if the insurance company won't underwrite it.

The department and commission discussed the pros and cons of waiting for the governor's guidelines. The consensus is that we cannot guarantee anyone's safety and the risk is too great.

With the camp decisions being made, the meeting for the end of May is not needed.

Doug asked the department to keep a call log to gather responses to the message that camp is canceled.

Doug motioned to adjourn at 7:42. Jim seconded.

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