

SOMERS RECREATION COMMISSION

Special Meeting

November 19, 2007

Kibbe Fuller Community Center

Present: Chris Meunier, Colleen Maniscalco, Karen Murdoch, Pam Coverdill , JJ Wassmuth , Rick Lees(arrived late)

Non-Members present: Jen Charette

Audience: Mark Lorenzi (Somers Soccer), Jim Maitland (Friends of Ellington Tennis), Mike Provencher (Parks Maintenance), Karen McGuane (Little League Baseball), Melissa Hughes (Somers Women's Volleyball), Doug Deal (Lacrosse)

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

II. CIP & Grant Update: Chris Meunier distributed an updated table with the commission's recommendations for CIP proposals. Members ranked the items in order of their perceived importance and necessity and submitted for discussion. It was decided to modify the Sokol Road Field improvements from 15K to 7K to cover re-grading and re-seeding, and that Public Works would be responsible for the drain pipes. Item 407 to improve Field#4 has been already completed, so was removed from the CIP. The CIP plan will be reviewed and prioritized at the December meeting.

III. Coordinator Report & Parks Maintenance Update: The members reviewed the coordinator's report and monthly budget and accepted the expenditures. The winter program flyer has gone out. Summer Camp programs were run at a profit this year. Mike Provencher suggested that the original amount of 15K for Sokol Road be accepted, as he thinks the pipes and sewer grates will need to come out of this budget; the commission will take this under advisement and will vote on this subject at the next meeting. Mike reported that the park bathrooms will be shut down for the winter the week of November 25th, and that the tennis court nets will be taken down by the end of November. The money to complete the baseball fields was received. DB landscaping donated the sprinkler system for Conor's Place Playground. The grass at the Firehouse Field came in well this Fall and the field will be ready for play in the Spring. A skating rink will be in place this winter, but the exact location is to be determined.

IV. Audience: Members of the audience raised inquiries regarding the 5 acres of town-owned land located behind the soccer fields at Field Road. The audience was given an update by the commission and Mike Provencher of parks and rec.

There was discussion about the possibilities for a long term lease of the K of C baseball field and whether or not the Town should approach the owners about improvements (should town offer to upgrade the field?). Other ideas regarding finding more land for new fields for baseball and othe sports were discussed, such as approaching the Northern Connecticut Land Trust for possible sale of property for public use.

Jim Maitland gave an update on the Friends of Tennis collaboration between Ellington and Somers. Participation by Somers girls dropped off by the end of the Fall. Ongoing discussions with the Somers AD and principal are occurring about making tennis a club sport at the high school. The USTA estimated that the tennis courts could be repaired for \$8K, but that this would be a band-aid approach and that a complete overhaul f the courts would be needed very soon. Mike Provencher also noted that filling the cracks in the courts would not prevent cracks from occurring, and that the tennis courts have already existed past the normal life expectancy for these courts(20 years).

Doug Deal made inquiries about the closing of the Skateboard Park. It was explained that the park was closed by the town selectmen due to safety hazards, as the equipment has broken down over time. Several people discussed possibilities of where the next park could be located, and Mike Provencher noted that there is room at the Field Road Park. The commission discussed the need to equip a new skateboard park with more durable and safe ramps.

V. Other: The commission decided to ask the new Town Planner to the next Recreation Commission meeting in December to discuss the need for more fields and the urgency to investigate the five acres behind the soccer fields as a possible solution.

VI. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Colleen Maniscalco