

**Minutes For
SOMERS RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

January 5, 2009

7:00pm

Kibbe Fuller Community Center

**Present: Karen Murdoch, Troy LaMontagne, Alicia Albert, Karen McGuane,
JJ Wassmuth**

Non-Members Present: Jen Charette, David Pinney

Audience: Fran Marocchini and Mark Murdoch – Somers Lacrosse

I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order 7:10 pm

II. Minutes of last meeting: Minutes of December 1, 2008 Regular Meeting were read and accepted with the following change:

Under Attendees: correct the spelling of Troy LaMontagne

Under Old Business, “Karen McGuane raised the question of clearing brush...”

Change “another small baseball field” to “another recreation field”

III. Election of Officers:

The following slate of officers was proposed by JJ Wassmuth:

Chairperson – JJ Wassmuth

Vice Chairperson – Troy LaMontagne

Secretary – Karen Murdoch

Karen McGuane made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented, Alicia Albert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business:

Field Usage:

Troy LaMontagne contacted “Turf Management Consultants” and a professor from UCONN regarding maintenance and wear of playing fields. The consultants generally don’t work with small towns, but rather larger organizations such as college football. The basic “rule of thumb” offered was “Grow the grass as fast as you wear it down.” In other words, if a field is used a lot, it must have a high level of maintenance. The most important maintenance item is aeration. A consultant would be willing to review our field conditions and maintenance plan for a \$1500 fee.

Recreation Coordinator Position:

The commission discussed the need to add an additional person to the staff of the recreation department now that Jen Charette has taken on the additional responsibilities of the Senior Center and Social Services.

V. Audience:

Fran Marocchini and Mark Murdoch from Somers Lacrosse were present to discuss the process of scheduling gym time. Dave Pinney was also present to discuss the issue.

Fran Marocchini had previously corresponded via e-mail (dated 1/3/09) with the commission regarding frustration with not being able to schedule any gym time for indoor practice at the beginning of the spring lacrosse season when the fields are still unusable. Fran had submitted requests through the normal scheduling process and was granted only 2 dates out of 18 requested.

After lengthy discussion, the group came to the following conclusions (paraphrased from Fran Marocchini's follow up e-mail dated 1/8/09)...

"The following is a summary of what we believe resulted in gym scheduling issues:

- The gym calendar did not reflect all of the approved permits.
- The events schedule on the gym calendar did not accurately reflect the permit request.
- Recreation organizations have gone directly to the school office to schedule gym time, bypassing the Recreation Director.
- Overlap of requested time resulted in a permit denial – no feedback on available time was given.

The following course of action was agreed upon:

- Jen Charette would review the current permits for sports association and determine if starting times could be shifted to allow more organizations access to the gym during the spring season.
- Jen Charette and Dave Pinney would meet with the Principals of the the Somers Elementary School and Maybelle B Avery Middle School to discuss the Recreation Commission's role in scheduling gym time for non-school functions.

The following actions were recommended to include in the discussion:

- The gym calendars should be an electronic format (ex. Outlook, Internet calendar, etc) for many to view but with limited write capability (school offices and Recreation Director)
- All non-school functions would be scheduled through the Recreation Director.
- All organizations wishing to use the gym for extended periods of time should have specific due dates by which the requests should be made. The Recreation Director would then be responsible for equitably dividing the available gym time.

VI. New Business:

CIP Requests:

The CIP requests from the Recreation Commission have been submitted to the Board of Finance. January 22 at 6:00 pm will be the CIP meeting by the Board of Finance. Also on

January 22 at 7:00 pm there will be a planning commission meeting, which the Recreation Commission is asked to attend to discuss the development of a new field at Field Road Park.

VII. Parks Department and Recreation Department Reports:

Mike Provencher was not present. No parks report was presented.

VIII. Correspondence :

E-mail correspondence from Fran Marocchini was discussed above under “Audience”

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm

Respectfully Submitted By,

Karen Murdoch
Secretary, Recreation Commission