

SOMERS RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

February 2, 2009

Kibbe Fuller Community Center

Present: J.J. Wassmuth, Karen McGuane, Troy LaMontagne, Alicia Albert, Karen Murdoch

Non-Members present: Dave Pinney, First Selectman

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm

II. Minutes of Last Meeting: Minutes of January 5, 2009 were read and accepted with the following changes:

Under Old Business/Field Usage: the \$1500 fee referred to an initial consultation on the condition of our fields. Any official analysis would be on a per field basis.

Karen McGuane made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Troy LaMontagne seconded. The motion passed.

III. Audience

Dave Pinney presented a letter addressed to the Somers Planning Commission to review the proposed development of the wooded area of the park into another athletic field. Dave will ask Bob Cafarelli to review the memos from the Planning Commission and be prepared to answer questions pertaining to the project.

Dave reiterated that the town's plan for conservation and development must look at sufficiency of all town resources.

The Recreation Commission members had a discussion with Dave regarding the need for additional staff to fill the Recreation Coordinators position. Dave reported that they are gearing up a person to relieve Jen Charette of the Social Services duties. This will allow her to divide her time between Recreation and Senior Services.

IV. Old Business – Filed Usage/Survey Info

Troy LaMontagne reported on the field usage research. He met with a professor from UCONN. The professor's assessment was that our fields are overused. He would offer his time to give a seminar on good field maintenance practices. A student project a UCONN completely restored a damaged field in four months using proper maintenance practices. The single most important treatment is aeration of the turf. Troy reported that there is a program sponsored by the New England Sports Turf Management Association that does field makeovers, somewhat like the home makeovers on Extreme Makeover-Home Edition. The application can be found at <http://www.nestma.org/events/doc/2008ExtremeFieldMakeoverApplication.pdf>

Troy also reported on a study by Iowa State University. The report indicated that over 79 uses per year can cause unrecoverable damage to turf. Under 64 uses per

year can be maintained. A field should have 7-10 fertilizer applications per year and 2 aerations. Mowing should be done 2 times per week.

V. New Business – 2009-2010 Budget

JJ reported that she has not received budget information to work from. This usually comes through Jen from the Finance Board.

Dave reported that the budget will have no increase for next year from this past year.

VI. Correspondence

The letter from Dave Pinney to the Planning Commission was reviewed by the Recreation Commission members.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Murdoch
Secretary, Somers Recreation Commission