

Recreation Advisory Board
Tuesday, March 27, 2023
Town Offices Nowak Room
7:00 PM
Final Minutes

1. Call to Order

Members Present: Chair Stephanie Papakonstantis, Brinn Sullivan, Mike Wissler, Bob Dudra, Jenn Harrington, Rachel Adams Ladeu, Nick Nordin and Select Board Rep Nancy Belanger. Greg Bisson, David Tovey, and Caroline Neel of Parks and Rec and Assistant Town Manager Melissa Roy were also present.

Members Absent: Dan Provost, Danielle Capalbo

Ms. Papakonstantis called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

2. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this time.

3. Minute Approval

- a. September 26, 2023

MOTION: Mr. Wissler moved to approve the Rec Advisory Board meeting minutes of September 26, 2023 as presented. Mr. Dudra seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

- b. October 24, 2023

MOTION: Mr. Wissler moved to approve the Rec Advisory Board meeting minutes of October 24, 2023 as presented. Mr. Dudra seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

- c. February 20, 2024

MOTION: Mr. Wissler moved to approve the Rec Advisory Board meeting minutes of February 20, 2024 as presented. Mr. Dudra seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

4. Recaps

- a. Autonomous equipment update

Mr. Bisson said the robots have been approved by the Select Board. We're getting the paperwork together for the autonomous mowers. We'll be getting 7: 4 for the Rec Park, 2 for Brickyard Park, and one spare. The robot paint liner is ready to roll. We've already come to an agreement with Exeter Youth Soccer and Exeter Youth Lacrosse to line their fields. This will bring in revenue to offset the cost of the robots. We need to clean the blades monthly. The work should be completed by the time the guys come in at 7 AM. The company Seacoast Power Equipment will come and help us set them up.

- b. Planet Playground Sub Committee/LWCF

Mr. Bisson said we had the first kick-off meeting for the Planet Playground subcommittee. This group will examine site amenities and the overall design. We have a good mix of Rec Advisory Board members and the general public. We've made it to the next phase of LWCF. The estimated construction/demo will be in spring 2025. There will be a site walk in a couple weeks.

Mr. Nordin asked if anything from the existing playground can be salvaged. Mr. Bisson said we talked about repurposing some of it. The less stuff that goes into a landfill, the better.

c. Day of Caring-United Way April 19, 2024- Recreation Park

Mr. Bisson said the United Way selected Exeter for their day of caring. They're focusing on the Rec Park and will beautify as much as they can. We need to rake up woodchips and remove rocks. We had 20 people last fall at Kids Park and they did great work.

d. Tennis Court Repair Update

Mr. Bisson said the upper courts are open to play. Mr. Dudra said without the trees, it looks a lot cleaner.

e. Tree Removal Planet Playground Update

Mr. Bisson said the tree removal was done a few weeks ago. The contractor stump grinded them. It was \$725 for 5 stumps, which was a huge discount. The guys put the wood chips behind the pool area where we have poison ivy.

f. Field Request update

Mr. Bisson said our first spring has been great working with baseball, softball and soccer on field requests. The days of people bulk-reserving fields are over. The field availabilities are on the website now. Our baseball and t-ball numbers are exploding; we've outgrown Gilman and will have some games at Park Street.

Ms. Papakonstantis asked the deadline for tiered leagues and teams to reserve fields. Mr. Bisson said it's first-come first-serve now. The Tier 2 groups all got their requests in.

g. Neptune Radio Update: Unexpected fees

Mr. Tovey said there are four major companies that do music licensing. If you get caught playing an artist's song without a license, you could get a hefty fine. Neptune covers two of the companies. We reached out to another one, and were quoted \$338.92 for 7 months. We're still waiting to hear from the fourth, but that could be an additional \$700. In our 3rd year, we could make a little profit, maybe \$500 per year. We need to get the music licensing. We found speakers, amps, and a surge protector in case lightning strikes. IT said wired is preferred.

Looking at Tier 1, we'd be looking for 4 sponsors at \$600 per sponsor. They get a professionally produced radio ad they can use on their own sites. They can put a banner at the pool. Their ad will be played every hour for three months. We hope to present the fees to the Select Board April 1.

Mr. Wissler asked if a camper, camp counselor, or other employee would be able to put on their own music. Mr. Tovey said no, it's secure. Ms. Sullivan said any music would be covered by the music license. Mr. Bisson said the system does allow us to expand further, such as at Planet Playground. Ms. Harrington asked if the town pays for music licensing already. Mr. Tovey said the town pays for ASCAP. Ms. Sullivan said anyone with the town could use the music. Mr. Tovey said we asked if Neptune could just play music from the two companies they cover, and they said no. Ms. Sullivan asked if a co-sponsored event like Powderkeg could be covered. Mr. Tovey said he would ask. Mr. Dudra asked if the hardware would come down after the season, and Mr. Bisson said yes. We would store the receiver inside a building so it doesn't get cold.

5. Discussion Items

a. Seasonal Hiring-Camp Counselors/Lifeguards

Ms. Neel said we have interviews lined up for counselors. We have a few more spots to fill. We had to close registration because we had 273 campers. Mr. Tovey said there are a few lifeguard spots to fill. We have an interview coming up. We had one good one with an older gentleman. Ms. Papakonstantis asked if we will be training on-site. Mr. Tovey said we will partner with PEA on a 5-day lifeguard certification class at the end of May. It's also open to the public. It costs \$250 for residents and \$275 for non-residents. If we hire them, they don't have to pay for the class. Mr. Bisson said any camp staff will get AED certified through the Fire Department.

b. 10 Hampton Rd Update

Mr. Bisson said we have a design. We're working with Melissa Roy to get together an RFP to put out in the next couple of weeks. The walls are down and we discovered some inconsistencies, but the issues are fixable. DPW has put in a basement flood alarm. We replaced the check valve in the sump pump and it's running well. There was another bathroom upstairs that had been converted to an office. We met with CDFA (Community Development Finance Authority) who is administering the CCIP (Community Center Improvement Program). They did a walkthrough and they're very pleased. Mr. Wissler asked if someone will be notified if the power goes out. Mr. Bisson said he will ask Steve Cronin. In updating the FD hazard mitigation plan, they added 10 Hampton Road as a possible emergency shelter location.

c. New Overnight Trip: Alaska Trip-Collette Tours

Mr. Tovey said we booked another trip with Collette Tours. There will be a presentation on September 18. This will be in June 2025, a 12-day trip including

a cruise with 26 meals. People should book by December 4 for current rates and availability. The starting inside double rate is \$6,200 with everything included, with airfare. There are some add-on excursions too. There's a South Dakota trip this June and Christmas markets in December. Ms. Sullivan asked if people need a passport for Alaska. Mr. Tovey said yes, although they don't need a visa. You will need a Real ID in 2025, but if you don't have one you can use a passport. Ms. Sullivan said Portsmouth has been using Collette Tours for years and never heard a bad thing. Mr. Nordin asked how new locations are chosen. Mr. Tovey said Collette recommends them, and we also talk to residents for feedback.

d. New Sponsorship Package

Mr. Bisson said we have to table this item. Brooks Bolden, our intern, is developing a sponsorship package. We want to have the Select Board sign off before we put it out there.

Ms. Papakonstantis said Dover didn't have a fence surrounding the soccer fields, but they did 2x4 stakes in the ground that made a perimeter backdrop which could work for advertising.

6. Old Business

There was no old business considered at this meeting.

7. New Business

Mr. Bisson said sports are back. We already have 100 kids for track and field, which is weeks away. Peewee lacrosse is at 31, double last year. Spring soccer is at 170 kids. Our senior programming is still booming. David's been working with the Senior Council. They will come to the Select Board in a few months for a progress report. The Senior Council gave out 200 copies of our Senior Resource Guide at the polls.

Ms. Papakonstantis asked if a senior could have a caregiver or child go with them on a trip. Ms. Neel said yes, a couple of women come with their adult children. The trips are open to anyone.

Ms. Sullivan asked if a Senior Council member could come to a Rec Advisory meeting. Mr. Tovey said he will invite them. Next month's Senior Council meeting will be at the library, and we invited all the organizations in the resource guide.

Ms. Neel said regarding the field requests update, Sundays are pretty open at the Rec Park. We're launching an adult pickup soccer program for the spring, summer, and fall. This is open to people aged 25+ years.

Mr. Wissler said with T-ball numbers growing and fields hard to get, he would like to explore improving Gilman Park and maybe do another field there. Mr. Bisson said we'd have to look at the work plan we have with SELT and see if we're able to expand. He added that it's one of the only parks that allows dogs.

Mr. Bisson said the egg hunt is this Saturday. We will evaluate the fields. It may be on the tennis and basketball courts. This year we'll hide eggs at Planet Playground.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Sullivan moved to adjourn. Mr. Dudra seconded. The motion passed 8-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary