

North Stonington Recreation Commission
September 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 6:19 pm with Commissioners Walley, Taylor, Welborn, Rusich, Perkins, and McCord. Director John Hines was present.

Public Comments – John Hines stated that the recreation area on Rocky Hollow Road looks good and that the town has identified an employee to maintain the area and keep it mowed.

May and June Minutes – A motion was made by Comm. Taylor to accept the minutes. This was approved.

Financial Report – Financial Report was reviewed. It was noted that the phone bill (AT&T) has been higher than usual for two months (~ \$80 rather than \$50). John Hines will take a look at the actual bill to identify the reason for the increased. A motion was made by Comm. Walley to accept the minutes.

New Business – NSLL Softball representatives Kerri Perez, Ray Amato, and Chuck Bustomonti.

Kerri introduced herself and stated that the goal of NSLL Softball is to bring softball back to NS, rather than playing with Pawcatuck. The league has seen a steady increase during their two years of play, and hope to build on their momentum. There is a fall league this year for 9/10 year old girls with 11 participants. To that end, they would like to present a plan for softball field improvements at the Rocky Hollow Recreation area. They need endorsement from the Rec Commission before presenting the plans to the selectmen. A summary of their plan is as follows:

- The infield is in good shape now but requires continued maintenance. Maintaining the infield for spring and fall play is the responsibility of NSLL Softball.
- The dugouts should be relocated closer to the field to make it easier for players in the dugout to stay engaged with the game.
- Moving the dugouts would require existing concrete pads be destroyed and removed.
- A storage shed is required for softball equipment and maintenance equipment.
- The face of the dugouts would be removed and a fence installed in front of the dugouts.
- A temporary outfield fence would be used for spring play (April through June).

After discussing the aspects of the plan, reviewing the possible reuse of fencing from the tennis courts, and the possibility of supporting the plan with funds from the Rec Commission, the **full endorsed the plan**. The representatives from NSLL Softball will now put together a proposal for the selectmen with financial details.

Old Business

1. The Goalrilla backboard is up. John Hines stops at the basketball court periodically to remind players to treat the equipment with respect. Any further backboard replacements will be with traditional steel backboards.
2. The Lions' Locker Room will open for the first time on Saturday, September 28 from 9 am to noon. John Hines will find out if any of the summer camp counselors are interested in staffing the Locker Room for three hours. Comm. Welborn will make flyers to hand out to soccer families during Saturday morning games.
3. Tennis grant reimbursements have been received.

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New Business

1. A new ice rink liner (size 40' by 70' has been purchased for \$300). Rink maintenance for the winter season will be discussed at the next Rec Commission meeting.
2. The North Stonington Christian Academy has asked for use of the soccer fields at the Rocky Hollow Road Recreation Area on 5 Mondays and 1 Thursday during the fall season. They will arrive after school and be done by 5 pm. The commission agreed to their use of the fields, with the donation of 2 boxes of paint for soccer lines in return.
3. The necessary replacement parts for the handicap swing at the playground have been received. Commissioner Perkins recommended the swing be installed for the fall, rather than wait until the spring.
4. A discussion of the summer playground camp centered on the evaluation and review process for Junior and Senior Counselors. It has been the practice to hire returning counselors, but the commission will consider including returning counselors in the interview process. That basically means that no one is guaranteed a job simply because they had one the previous summer. This topic will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.
5. Commissioner Condon and Commissioner Walley are both resigning from the commission. John Hines acknowledged the long service of Dennis Walley and thanked him for all he has done for the commission. Ted Condon has also been a terrific asset, organizing the soccer as well as participating when needed in other Rec Commission events. Thank you to them both! With their departures, there is a need for additional commission members. Current commissioners were asked to think about and propose any recommendations for new commissioners.
6. The summer of 2013 was successful for the playground and kiddie camps. The commission will consider adding two additional weeks of afternoon camps (in addition to art, science/nature, and games) to provide additional camp opportunities for NS parents and children. John reminded the commission that decisions would need to be made in time for the January budget cycle. This topic should be discussed further at future meetings.
7. Commissioner Perkins informed the group that she had been told of two children injuring themselves on the jungle gym, with the need for stitches. This is the first report of this type of injury and it was agreed that the commission should monitor to see if there are future injuries on this equipment.
8. John Hines will buy Halloween candy for the egg hunt on Saturday, October 26. There is no need to buy filled eggs this year as the eggs from last year were emptied and saved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.