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**RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, August 3, 2020**

**Recreation Storage Facility**  
**55 Recreation Road, Rye, NH**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Gregg Mikolaities, Chairman, Joe Persechino, Brett Mulvey, Todd Cronin, Stephen King, Commissioners, and Lee Arthur, Recreation Director.

**Guests:** Leif Honda, Rye Soccer Association

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

*Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to take out of order Rye Soccer Associations Field Use Application that is under Correspondence: Other.  
Seconded by Joe Persechino. Motion carried.*

Included in the meeting packet was the Rye Soccer Association Field Use Application and their soccer safety policies and procedures dated July 30, 2020. Leif Honda presented the Rye Soccer Association's Plan for fall soccer. He pointed out that his employment is with a testing facility and as such he has specific knowledge regarding COVID-19. He has developed a flexible plan; however, the soccer season may look a little different. They may not play groups outside Rye or have traditional games but focus on training instead.

He highlighted specific components of the plan and indicated that a lot of time was spent on the development of protocols. Biosafety Levels were addressed as well as the assessment of risk as it relates to soccer. He pointed out that the contact in soccer can be reduce. The plan calls for four phases. Phase 1: At home individual or small group training; Phase 2: Training and Groups 8 or less; Phase 3: Box Soccer Intra or designated team competition; and Phase 4: Traditional Soccer (league). It was discussed that box soccer is a great alternative that assist in skill development and has no contact.

They have developed a communication process including a COVID-19 related waiver and he reviewed the reporting, drop off and pick-up, spectator and sanitization procedures.

It was discussed that Rye Soccer Association operated a successful summer program at Lang Corner Field. Leif Honda explained how the program operated and reported that it was for 6 weeks, had 70 participants, each pod had less than 8 participants, there were 4 sessions a day and each session was one hour and fifteen minutes in length.

Gregg Mikolaities asked if their plan was to have Rye and New Castle residents only. Leif Honda indicated that at this point they did not know the status of the league but would communicate any changes or developments. Phase 3: Box Soccer Intra or designated team competition was reviewed. It was compared to a hybrid of soccer, chess, and foosball, that teaches different soccer skills.

The access to toilet facilities was discussed. It was pointed out that there are no portable or public toilets available at this time. The portable toilets at Cable Road were pulled due to health concerns. The health officer was recently consulted, and the opening of toilet facilities was a concern and not recommended. Leif Honda indicated that they included the use of portable toilets in their plan and that there is one at Lang Corner Field. He mentioned that the portable toilet was changed weekly, cleaned after every use and locked. Lee Arthur mentioned that when she saw it there was no lock present and it was dirty. Gregg Mikolaities recommended that Leif Honda research the use of portable toilets that supports utilizing them, so that can be provided to the health officer.

It was discussed that the pods for soccer would be different than those in school and if that should be a concern. It was pointed out that there would be no one from outside the community playing at this time. The process in the event of a COVID-19 case was discussed.

Gregg Mikolaities asked how Rye Little League went and it was noted that it went well, the program was held for the older ages and that they made adaptations. He then asked the Recreation Commissioners for their input regarding soccer. Stephen King indicated that he would have to read the plan in detail before commenting. Brett Mulvey commented on the benefit of smaller groups from a developmental standpoint. Gregg Mikolaities asked their process for reopening and halting operations and if they were following what the school does. Leif Honda indicated that the Rye Soccer Association Board of Directors would make any decisions and that he is not coaching this year. Joe Persechino asked when Rye Soccer Association wanted to start using the fields. Leif Honda indicated that they were looking to use the fields from August 17 - November 1, 2020.

It was noted that Rye Recreation Soccer has a total of 72 participants registered and the plan is to operate in small pods and focus on skills and drills. It was discussed working with Rye Soccer Association regarding box soccer and decided to form a small committee to assist with the program. The committee would consist of Lee Arthur, Stephen King, and Leif Honda. Cory Belden and David Williams would be asked to sit

on the committee. It was noted that additional assistance may be needed in order to open responsibly.

It was pointed out that the certificate of insurance; e-mail or letter from the insurance provider that the general liability insurance policy does not exclude claims arising from disease or pandemic, or claims occurring during a state of emergency; and proof of NHDHHS Certification of Background Check still need to be received as well as the safety plan approved.

*Motion was made by Joe Persechino to approve the Recreation Fields Use Application from Rye Soccer Association pending receipt of the final schedule, certificate of insurance, insurance letter/e-mail, background check certification and approval of their safety plan. Seconded by Stephen King. Motion carried.*

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

The Recreation Commissioners reviewed the meeting minutes of June 1, 2020.

*Motion was made by Stephen King to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of Monday, June 1, 2020. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.*

### **IV. Correspondence**

#### **Financial Reports**

Lee Arthur provided the Recreation Commissioners with the financial reports for July. Spending had been frozen because of the absence of any revenue. The recreation budget had \$148,741.40 expended (56.29% left); recreation revolving budget \$47,486.83 expended (83.52% left) and patriotic purposes \$3,006.68 expended (71.90% left). The revenue received to date from the After School Program has not covered the programs expenditures so far this year. Rye Recreation Programs depend on user fees to operate. It is hoped that when programs reopen there will be the opportunity to correct itself.

**Memorandum received from Mae Bradshaw, CIP Committee, Chairperson that the 2021-2026 CIP Department Request deadline is August 14, 2020 and all submissions are to be returned to Kate Drago**

Included in the meeting packet was correspondence from Mae Bradshaw, CIP Committee, Chairperson that the 2021-2026 CIP Department Request deadline is August 14, 2020 and all submissions are to be returned to Kate Drago.

### **V. Old Business**

#### **Rye Congregational Church Space**

Included in the meeting packet was a letter to John Cavanagh of Rye Congregational Church, requesting the ability to make potential facility improvements (installation of cabinetry, sink and counter), use additional space as an office, notify him of the use of the third floor for the After School Program, request the use of church space for senior programming and on behalf of the Board of Selectman ask about the possibility of having other town meetings at the church to accommodate social distance.

It was discussed that in order to accommodate everyone that signed up for the After School Program the church would need to be utilized for a third pod. There is a separate entrance has access to the third floor. The church is currently not open for business and is holding service in their parking lot. John Cavanagh indicated in an email that the letter had been forwarded to all Rye Congregational Council Members in advance of their August 9, 2020 meeting and they prefer to meet privately.

### **Rye Recreation Storage Facility**

Recreation supplies and equipment have been moved into the storage facility and shelving installed. The canteen section needs to be completed including the purchase of a fridge and cabinetry.

## **VI. New Business**

### **CIP**

It was discussed that the Recreation Revolving Budget had \$10,000 as a capital expenditure set aside, to conduct an assessment of the current building needs and goals of recreation area that would include a schematic and report that would answer the question “Where should public commercial grade restrooms be placed at the Recreation Area?”

The Recreation Commission decided to submit two CIP Project Request for 2021-2026. New Public Restrooms for 2021 tentatively for \$50,000 and Gravel Parking Lot expansion for 2022. Joe Persechino had previously worked on a parking lot plan. He indicated that he would forward it to Lee Arthur with estimates.

### **RES and RJHS Reopening Plan**

Included in the meeting packet was the Re-entry Plan for Rye School District. It was noted that it is a work in progress and the final plan is anticipated soon.

### **Staff Restructuring**

The Recreation Director and Administration and Programs Assistance would be working directly in programs as much as possible in order to sustain programming. Thus, the Recreation Office hours may need to be change in the future.

### **Reopening Programs**

If the After School Program reopens it will follow school guidelines and would look different. Rye Elementary School has two classrooms set aside for the After School Program however, no additional space. Rye Congregational Church would also need to be used in order to accommodate all registrants.

The reopening plan for the schools indicates that in person learning would be Monday - Thursday and remote on Friday. School would open to students on September 9, 2020.

The number of After School Program Participants registered each day was included in the meeting packet. The tentative plan would be to have two pods at the elementary school (Grades K-2), each with approximately 12 participants and a third pod at Rye Congregational Church with approximately 16 participants (Grades 3-4). The environment would have desk used for personal space, distanced and the program would be conducted outside as much as possible.

The program would include time for homework, snack and activities. It would close at 5:00 or 5:15 p.m. and cost the same. It was mentioned that the numbers could decrease with more parents working from home. For it to work financially the Recreation Director and Administration and Programs Assistant would need to work in program. With the duration of the program shortening and the cost remaining the same it is anticipated that the program could break even.

There was a discussion about the inability to keep participants in the same pods as they are in during the day. Lee Arthur indicated that she provided the Principal with the list of participants in order to see the impact on pods. A discussion on the purpose of pods ensued. If grades 3-4 are at Rye Congregational Church parents that have more than one child in program may have to pick-up at two locations.

The Recreation Commissioners were each asked for their opinion on whether to try to proceed with the After School Program. Stephen King, Gregg Mikolaities, Todd Cronin and Joe Persechino supported proceeding and Brett Mulvey suggested canceling although he is amenable to the utilization of outside space including tents. It was suggested to move forward one month at a time and limit people from changing days. It was noted that there are no 5<sup>th</sup> graders registered and that they should not be accepted this year as that would open participation from the Rye Junior High.

Lee Arthur explained that the quote to install a bathroom at the lower level of the school was \$7,500 and asked if the Recreation Commission wanted to pursue the installation. They indicated that they did not want to pursue the installation at this time.

Lee Arthur indicated that she is waiting for the final plan from the school district but would continue planning and keep the Recreation Commissioners update.

### **Other**

Lee Arthur reported that the contents of a ceramic studio has been donated to Rye Recreation by Bruce Valley with further information to follow. She then asked if the Recreation Commission was willing to waive the fee charged to vendors for the recent Little League Event at the Recreation Area.

*Motion was made by Stephen King to waive the fee charged to vendors for the recent Little League event held at Rye Recreation. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.*

## **VII. Adjournment**

It was discussed that another meeting may be needed sooner than next month and that it would be called if needed.

*Motion was made by Joe Persechino to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.*

*\*These are draft minutes. Please refer to the minutes of the next meeting for approvals/corrections.*