

Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes  
10/1/09  
6:30 pm

Attendance: Sue Laroche, Chairman  
Bob Iannaco  
Mick Regan  
Eric Horton  
Dave Yates  
Selectman Roger Coutu  
Keith Bowen  
Jeremy Griffus

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

**September Minutes**

Selectman Roger Coutu made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Jeremy Griffus. There was no discussion and minutes were accepted 7-0.

**Public Input**

Jennifer Ruigrok, 4 Boulder Drive  
Paul Martineau, 14 Springwood Circle

Public input was provided regarding the changes to the Travel Team basketball rules. An objection was raised the requirement that all travel teams participate in the Suburban League. Due to the rules change Mr. Ed Peterson, long time coach of the Junior Penguins, had turned down the offer to continue coaching this team. Ms. Ruigrok and Mr. Martineau, along with the members of the Junior Penguins and their parents turned out to show their support for Mr. Peterson.

Ms. Ruigrok's remarks along with parents' comments (e-mails) in support of Mr. Peterson are provided in Attachment A.

**Report of Officers**

Nothing to report

**Report of Sub Committees**

Basketball:

Interviews held for All-Star coaching positions. Due to changes to the basketball rules the 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls position has gone unfilled. This coaching slot had previously been filled by Mr. Ed Peterson.

Mr. Yates indicated that Mr. Peterson cannot support the Suburban league schedule since most games are held weekends.

Mrs. Laroche informed the committee that an option was available for a league of similar structure but the requirement to join a league remained. Teams would not be allowed to tournament hop to fill their season.

In discussion regarding Mr. Peterson it was noted by Mr. Iannaco that of the 11 coaches interviewed only 2 coaches objected to the new rules.

Mr. Yates indicated that the other dissenting coach later agreed to accept new rules.

Mr. Bowan reminded the town residents that the new rules were drafted and adopted with the intent of offering a better all-around program to the young athletes of Hudson.

Selectman Coutu reiterated that fact that of the 11 interviews and subsequent 8 offers, only one objection remains to the new rules. The objection by Mr. Peterson is the direct result of no longer having the option to choosing the schedule (leagues/tournaments). In the past athletes were allowed to play the recreation league in addition to the All-Star league to fill gaps in the tournament schedule. No longer is the recreation league option available to the All-Star league. To ensure consistency of play the Suburban league was chosen. Further, with only one objection being raised it does not appear there is a problem with the new rules.

Mr. Iannaco reminded the residents of Hudson that public input was made to the rules and significant revisions were made based on that input prior to adoption.

Selectman Coutu followed up his previous statements by offering a suggestion for Mr. Peterson to enlist an alternate coach to fill-in on the weekends he cannot support.

Mr. Yates responded that this suggestion was offered to Mr. Peterson however he was not amenable to the option.

In response Selectman Coutu indicated that he did not believe the Recreation department is at fault since we attempted to work with Mr. Peterson. Selectman Coutu recommended reengagement to inform him that based on a response from his team and parents that we are genuinely concerned about having him back as a coach for the benefit of the kids and the community. It was requested that Mr. Yates ask him to reconsider our proposal for an assistant coach.

Mr. Iannaco indicated his support for Mr. Peterson and supported the recommendation to reengage. Further, Mr. Iannaco expressed his pleasure at the way the interviews were handled and received positive feedback from the coaches who participated.

## **Director's Report**

Mr. Dave Yates notified the committee of the Basketball sub-committee coaching selections:

5<sup>th</sup> grade girls Leo Thyne  
5<sup>th</sup> grade boys Paul Bolduc  
6<sup>th</sup> grade boys Matt Hudson  
6<sup>th</sup> grade girls – Unfilled – Offered to Mr. Peterson  
7<sup>th</sup> grade boys Joe Wetmore  
7<sup>th</sup> grade girls Kevin Wright  
8<sup>th</sup> grade boys Buddy O'Hearn  
8<sup>th</sup> grade girls Mark Sherburne

Soccer has begun, into 3<sup>rd</sup> week. Smooth running to date

Friday, Monsters vs. Aliens Movie night 7pm community center

Fri Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 6-9 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade dance at the community center

Adult Halloween dance 730-11 Oct 24<sup>th</sup> (substituting comedy night for dance) This is a trial event

Basket ball registration signed up approximately 600 kids, down from around 700 last year. In an effort to sign-up stragglers an additional registration period will be held.

## **Correspondence**

None to report.

## **Old Business**

A) Ears Pond Project – Layout included in Attachment B

Mr. Regan's contact has provided a sketch of the proposed recreation area. This is a 5 acre parcel in the south end of town. Planned scope for the area to include a playground, picnic area, 3 volleyball courts, cross country/ski trail, and open green space. There will be approximately 20 parking spaces to prevent on-street parking and a pine tree buffer will be left to provide a buffer to surrounding residents.

Mrs. Laroche indicated that a previous meeting with the town's road agent, Mr. Kevin Burns, revealed no significant issues with clearing the land. Additionally, Mr. Burns believed it may be possible to find someone to pay the town for the trees.

Mr. Yates estimated the project's cost to be \$100,000 and noted that the town has collected approximately \$122,000 in recreation impact fees.

Mr. Yates will provide a copy of the drawing to the town IT department for inclusion on the recreation website.

Mr. Griffus likes the idea of the volleyball courts due to the high use at Merryfield park. He would like to see a community playground build to help save money and get community participation.

Mr. Bowan made a motion to present the plan to the BOS, seconded by Mr. Iannaco. There was no discussion and minutes were accepted 7-0.

## **New Business**

### A) 2011 Budget

Mr. Yates informed the committee that the recreation department was level funded for 2011. The only increase in the proposed budget was for a 3% raise to support the part time employees (administrator at 25 hours/week and maintenance at 15 hours/week).

Mr. Yates informed the committee that he will be requesting a redistribution of the current salary plan. To reward the staff that continue to return year after year Mr. Yates suggests the following pay structure:

\$9.00/ hour for the first 3 years

\$10.00/hour for years 4 - 6

\$11.00/hour for 7+ years

The overall funding requirement would not change due to the distribution.

NHRPA association dues – Paying for the NH lake association dues for Robinson pond which reduced the overall dues cost

Revenue went up 22K from previous year. This was mostly based by increased enrollment and slight increases in usage fees. Comparisons to Pelham, a town half the size of Hudson, show that we offer good services at low cost to the town.

Baseball team association fees and dues went up to cover insurance from 20 to 35 per team.

Selectman Coutu would like to see a total of the FY 10 as opposed to FY 11 budget. The 2010 budget was authorized at \$351,364. 2011 numbers need to be finalized through the finance department. It was recommended that Mr. Yates articulate his position regarding proposed changes regarding structure and pay for personnel.

## **Election of Officers**

The following nominations were made:

Selectman Coutu nominated Jeremy Griffus to serve as Chairman.

Jeremy Griffus accepted the nomination.

Keith Bowan nominated Eric Horton as Secretary.

Mr. Horton accepted the nomination.

Jeremy Griffus nominated Sue Laroche as Charirman.

Sue Laroche declined the chairman position but thanks Jeremy for the nomination.

Sue Laroche nominated Mick Regan as Vice Chairman

Mick Regan declined.

Selectman Coutu nominated Bob Iannaco as Vice Chairman

Bob Iannaoc accepted the nomination.

Selectman Coutu moved to close the nomination process. Keith Bowan second, motion passes 7-0

Selectman Couto moved to elect all those nominated by unanimous consent, Mr. Regan seconds, and motion passes 7-0

2009-2010 Recreation Committee Officers

Chairman – Jeremy Griffus

Vice Chairman – Bob Iannaco

Secretary – Eric Horton

## **Closing Remarks**

Mrs. Laroche thanked the committee for their support.

Selectman Coutu expressed his deepest gratitude on behalf of the town for the role that Mrs. Laroche undertook this past year. Sue has done a commendable job and has brought a positive tone to the recreation department and to the good will that we hope to generate as result of being a viable committee. Thank you as a member of the committees, a member of the town, and especially chairman of the board of selectman.

Selectman Coutu moves to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Horton second and motion passes 7-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Horton