

Recreation Commission Regular Meeting

March 6, 2024

DRAFT

2 The regular Recreation Commission meeting was held March 6 at the Stowe Community Room starting at 5:00 P.M.

3 Members present: Forrest Shinnors, Julian Roscioli-Barren, Brett Loomis, Jared Anello, Lyn Goldsmith, Ryan Thibault, Dave Rogers, Matt Frazee. Absent: Lynn Altadonna, Audience: Carolyn Lawrence, Shap Smith

4 **5:00pm called to order. Agenda Approved**

5 **RT motioned to approve the minutes JA second**

6 Carylyn Lawrence from Stowe Trails Partnership attended to introduce herself and talk about what STP does. She emphasized the interests in mountain biking and said STP typically has 1200-1400 members annually. She said mountain biking grew 47% from 2018-20. She indicated STP would be interested in collaboration opportunities with Stowe Parks and Recreation and Matt offered to meet and discuss further.

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8 **Tennis/Pickleball Courts**

9 The group discussed that since the Memorial Park project was not moved forward at this time, how to keep the courts functioning in the near term. Asphalt overlay is an option but due to the subsurface conditions, there would be little guarantee as to how long the repairs would last. SportCourt surfacing is a module tile system and offers lower risk of injuries and can be repurposed for other uses if/when new courts are eventually developed. Discussed pursuing new construction behind Parks building but noted uncertainty of funding and permitting.

10 Brett motioned to make recommendation to the Selectboard to use the \$175,000 capital funds for tennis court replacement previously approved in 2017, to prep surface, install SportCourt surfacing, and replace fence. All in favor.

11 Forrest requested agenda item for April meeting to recommend that the courts be set up as 6 dedicated pickleball courts and no tennis courts.

12 **Quiet Path Bridge and Path Relocation**

13 Matt shared that the Quiet Path Bridge has been closed and is in the process of being removed due to no longer being structurally sound. The Quiet Path will also be re-routed to avoid river bank erosion and extended to a new bridge between Field E and D which is being constructed.

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15 **Other business**

16 Matt shared a letter to the Selectboard from British Invasion requesting a 20% discount for fees for Large Event field rentals. The group expressed that they were asked by the Selectboard to evaluate the fees in 2020 and felt that the fees are appropriate. Fees were compared to Farr's field, Topnotch, Essex Tree

Farm, which were all more. It was expressed that the Recreation Commission was not in support of the 20% fee decrease.

- 17 Lyn expressed concern regarding people not picking up dog droppings on Mayo fields and the Quiet Path. She suggested more signage and fines. Matt said the Town has discussed an ambassador program for the Rec Path and that may be an avenue to pursue in addition to signage and that we can further explore signage and fines at the next meeting.
- 18 Ryan said there is someone interested in more figure skating times being offered at the arena. Matt said their figure skating programs have been growing and that ice time availability is limited. Matt encouraged Ryan to encourage the person to contact him to further discuss.
- 19 Matt will be out of work March 26-April 8 for surgery/recovery. Next RC meeting will be April 10th.

6:53 p Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Matt Frazee