

TOWN OF EPSOM
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Meeting House, 1596 Dover Road, Epsom, NH
November 9, 2023, 6:00 PM

PRESENT

Joe Wysocki, Chair
Cheryl Gilpatrick, Board of Selectmen Representative
Eric Reid, Member
Mike Tisbert, Member

ALSO PRESENT

Dan Randall, Epsom Bible Church/softball league

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wysocki called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

AGENDA REVIEW

No changes were made.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented. Motion by Ms. Gilpatrick. Mr. Reid seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting of October 12, 2023– The minutes were reviewed, and edits were made. **MOTION: To approve the minutes as amended. Motion by Ms. Gilpatrick. Mr. Reid seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Appointment

Chair Wysocki stated at the last couple meetings, the Commissioners had discussed the use of the ballfields by the Epsom Bible Church softball league, per a request presented by Mr. Tisbert on behalf of the league. Chair Wysocki stated there are some concerns including the initial advice indicating the infields would need to be gravel however that area is one of the most commonly reserved areas of the park; he stated there was also concern about the proximity to the concession stand and potential liability with balls, hit in that direction. There was a discussion about the layout of the fields.

Dan Randall stated the league had 14 teams with 250 players last year; there are 8 games a week on 4 fields but it's tough to schedule that many games on the fields they currently have so they would like to have a couple more to work with. Mr. Randall stated they would help with the striping and general maintenance; bases are provided, and they would like to have a small locked equipment box kept on site. He stated they don't have to have a gravel infield but at least the areas where they are running. Mr. Randall stated the pitcher's mound is the same grade as the bases. The regular games are held on weeknights; the tournament at the end of the season is held

at the Epsom Bible Church fields. It was noted additional pumping of the port-o-potties might be needed; if there is a scheduling conflict, the league will use another field. Ms. Gilpatrick suggested the league contact the indoor sports facility on Gauthier Drive for future space as well.

The Commissioners agreed to discuss this further with the Commissioners not in attendance, at the next meeting. Ms. Gilpatrick stated the only problem she sees is keeping people, kids and dogs off the fields when games are taking place.

Discuss Monthly Business

• Review current spend vs. budget

Chair Wysocki stated they collected about \$900 in reservation fees this year; he gave an overview of the reservation fund balance. He stated he estimates they will go over budget by about \$500 this year, if the refund from the insurance claim is denied

Ms. Gilpatrick noted the Old Home Weekend Association plans to make a \$1,000 donation to the reforestation fund.

Chair Wysocki stated he had reviewed the bids for mowing and port-o-potties services for 2024; several quotes were received for mowing with the lowest bid from Mattice Collins, which is the same pricing as 2023. The Commissioners recommended the contract with Collins be renewed for another year. Ms. Gilpatrick will bring this to the Board of Selectmen and will recommend the Board of Selectmen to accept the bid from Best Septic after she speaks with Mr. Perry.

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the septic bids and will recommend to the Board of Selectmen to accept the bid from Best Septic after Mr. Wysocki speaks with Mr. Perry.

The Commissioners discussed member terms and the election of officers. After discussion, Ms. Gilpatrick suggested amending the bi-laws to appoint members for three years, when the initial terms expire.

Chair Wysocki distributed a draft report for the Annual Town Report for review by the Commissioners. He stated he is also working on the budget presentation to the Budget Committee on December 7.

The Commissioners discussed the plans for setting up the ice skating rink.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary