

**Dracut Recreation Commission
Minutes of September 12, 2016
Dracut Town Hall**

Present: Mike Parent, Denis Kennedy, Gordy Scott, Steve Talbot, George Malonis, Ray McCann, Shannon Mitton-Talbot, Steve Gomes, Recreation Director Lori Cahill and Recording Secretary Cyndy Alexander

Absent: Jamie Desmarais

Opened the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Community Input: None

Approval of Minutes of June 13, 2016: Motion made by Mr. Scott to approve the Minutes. Motion seconded by Ms. Mitton-Talbot. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of Financial Accounts: Ms. Cahill reviewed the accounts for July, August and up to current day in September. Ms. Cahill noted that \$4,061.88 of earned income from the Recreation programs was not spent and was turned over to the Admin Revolving account and ultimately it would be turned over to the town's General Account pursuant to State laws. Ms. Mitton-Talbot asked if that excess money could have been used collectively as a group instead of turning it back to the General account. Ms. Cahill stated she believed they could have done that and pointed out that if it had been spent by June 1st as requested this may not have happened. Also noted by Ms. Cahill is that \$4000.00 was paid to the Recreation Department for Field Use Fees. Each of the following organizations paid \$1000.00: Dracut Baseball, Dracut Pop Warner Football, Dracut Soccer and Dracut Girls Softball. Mr. Talbot asked if the Field Use Fees have been ear-marked for anything in particular such as aerating the fields. Ms. Cahill will speak with the Town Manager to get a status on how he wants to manage the Field Use Fees. Motion made by Mr. Kennedy to approve the Financials. Motion seconded by Mr. McCann. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: Email from Evan Lavidor.

Action Items from previous meetings: None

Committee Reports:

- **Boys Basketball:** Mr. Scott stated they will be starting in two weeks. Travel tryouts are at the end of September. Sign-ups started today for Travel Basketball. September 28, 29 & 30 are the tryout dates. He will be meeting with Mr. Sancartier soon to determine the master schedule. Boys Basketball may move home games to Saturdays at the High School. He spoke with the High School coach about getting boys and girls to play at the High School. Most teams in Merrimack Valley play on Sunday so he wants to try to move to Saturday. Permits are submitted but are still pending. Ms. Cahill explained that if they sign-up for Travel and are not selected they can play on the Rec teams. The online registration system allows parents to select an option if not chosen for the Travel team; either choose to play Rec or receive a refund. Parents must pay in full in order for child to play.
- **Girls Basketball:** Mike Parent is having a meeting Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at the Fire House to perform interviews for coaches for the Travel teams which was advertised through Facebook, Parent Connection, the website, and all former registrants

were contacted by Mike Sancartier. Will meet with Boys Basketball in the next couple of weeks to work on schedules on Saturdays/Sundays. Mr. Scott added that he has received a lot of positive feedback with regard to games being played on Saturdays.

- **Baseball:** Mr. McCann informed the board that Fall Baseball starts on Saturday, September 17, 2016 for T-Ball (5-6 year olds) and 7 and 8 year olds. Grades 9 thru 12 will play on Sundays. Looking forward to get it going and no issues at this point. All parents have been notified.
- **Softball:** Steve Gomes will have a meeting and general elections on September 28th. The Board will meet in October. The summer session went well. The tournament season went well also. The dugout on field two, first base side, was rebuilt. A roof still needs to be done and the other dugout needs to be rebuilt. Due to the lack of rain this summer the fields are in need of help. Roy field was aerated last week and still have a lot of work to do. He is going to try to clean up an overgrown area as it is becoming a hazard.
- **Ski:** Shannon Mitton-Talbot stated that decisions need to be made about what the best night is to ski, either Friday or Saturday. We need to contact Bradford Ski Resort in October and get bids for this upcoming season. Ms. Cahill asked if it would be worth starting before MLK weekend or after since there is that break in between the weeks. It may give families more time to pay for the program if they start after MLK weekend. Last year they had a few weeks to pay. Ms. Mitton-Talbot is open to either Friday or Saturday evenings. Ms. Cahill said there may be a conflict with basketball programs on Saturdays and timing of available ski times at Bradford. Ms. Mitton-Talbot would look at the options and make a determination soon.
- **NFL Flag Football:** Ms. Cahill stated that Flag Football has just started. They had approximately 218 registrants this year. Jay Turner is in charge of NFL Flag Football.
- **Wrestling:** Registrations start next Monday, September 12, 2016.

New Business: Vandalism at the Dillon McAnespie bathrooms: Ms. Cahill explained that someone vandalized two of the bathrooms by tearing out all of the paper towel and toilet paper dispensers and by tearing out ceiling tiles. All repairs were made within a few days but the bathrooms were locked down while in disrepair. Also, a broken door lock has been repaired. Ms. Cahill stated the video camera there is not working and will inquire about getting that repaired.

Old Business:

New bathrooms at Monahan Field: Mr. Gomes stated that the new bathrooms were opened in August and everyone who uses Monahan is very satisfied with them. They will only be open when Girls Softball is playing. There will be a couple of tournaments played in October and they will be open for those games. Mr. Gomes will manage when they are open/closed.

Skateboard Park: It has been opened since Memorial Day weekend. Have had very few skaters and have been rained out a couple of times. It has been opened 383 hours, with payroll cost currently at \$4,596.00 with 9 hours and 55 minutes of usage which comes to \$481.00 per hour while open. The Town Manager wants to keep it open on the weekends until Columbus Day. There has been only person to use the park in the last few weeks for 45 minutes total. The younger kids will come and try the park for a few minutes. The older kids will stay longer. The rule is helmets must be worn and the older kids don't always have helmets so they are turned away. Most Board members feel this money could be used in a better way on other recreation programs/assets. Ms. Mitton-Talbot mentioned that if the skate park is going to remain open next year she was trying to find a way to better promote the park. She is in contact with the Tony

Hawke program to see if they could suggest ways to promote. She offered to dig in for more information/ideas if the Board agrees. Ms. Cahill will speak with the Town Manager to determine the direction for next year and Mr. Parent suggested Ms. Mitton-Talbot wait until we know what the plan will be for next year. Mr. Scott suggested getting on the Selectman's agenda. Ms. Cahill said we should wait until we have all the data at the end of the summer.

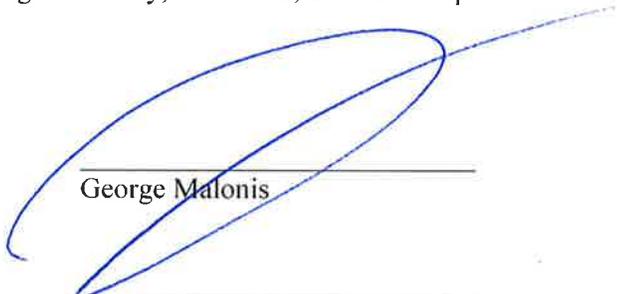
Mr. Talbot said that the last time the Town Manager was at a meeting he stated that he was going to turn the Field Use Fees back into upgrading some fields/facilities and wondered if that has happened. Ms. Cahill stated it has not happened and that the Board would make those decisions. Ms. Cahill said that a special recreation revolving account was being created for this money and that should be done in November when we will move the Field Use Fee funds to the new account. The new special recreation revolving account will allow us to accumulate up to \$50,000.00 that does not go back to the General Account at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Talbot asked could that money be used now to aerate fields or be used to purchase aerate equipment. Mr. Talbot has concerns that the money will end up in the General Account. Mr. Parent suggested they put in a request on how to spend the money and let the Town Manager make that determination. Ms. Cahill explains that she was told the DPW does aerate all the fields and will ask Mr. Patenaude, DPW Director, for the schedule. Mr. Parent suggested that we ask the Presidents of Soccer and Pop Warner to attend our next meeting to discuss how to spend this money so they can submit a request to the Town Manager. Mr. Talbot asked that Ms. Cahill follow-up with Mr. Duggan, Town Manager for his plan for this money. Ms. Cahill said she would address this issue with Mr. Duggan and update the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Scott to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Malonis. Motion passed unanimously.

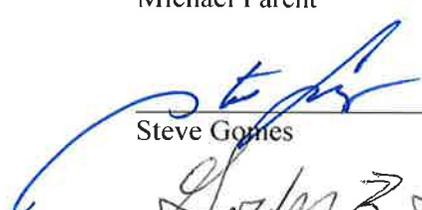
Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm. Next Meeting is Monday, October 3, 2016 at 7:00pm



 Michael Parent



 George Malonis



 Steve Gomes



 Denis Kennedy



 Gordon Scott



 Ray McCann

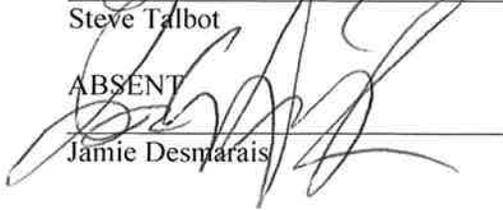


 Steve Talbot



 Shannon Mitton-Talbot

ABSENT



 Jamie Desmarais

Recording Secretary
 Cyndy Alexander