

Tiverton Recreation Commission meeting August 21, 2007

Present a meeting: Debbie Ebbitt, Sara Costa and Daniel Rocha, Jack Cook, Theresa Burke, Phyllis Brower, Glen Steckman, Bob Martin, and Diana Toste.

Sara Costa and Daniel Rocha presented a display of gymnastics equipment suggestions for purchase. The current equipment is outdated (40 years old) and sized for older children. The vault is equipment that was recalled in 2004 from the manufacturer. American Gymnist is the vendor they got prices from.

Mike Albernez from TYS requested approval to put in a storage container for equipment at Pocasset. The recreation commission voted unanimously to let the TYS put the storage container on the tennis courts at the back of the fields. Opening day for the TYS will be September 8th.

Field usage fees:

Diana Toste mentioned the concern that the usage fees do not go into any recreation fund but into the general fund. Mr. Steckman mentioned there might be a possibility of some such funds being put back into the recreation commission specifically. Further discussion of the assessment to particular leagues/teams for excessive use or damage of facilities and fields was a possibility for raising funds for field maintenance. Mr. Steckman suggested putting a measure on field usage for each of the sports. Any further discussion was tabled until next year when the new schools are completed.

Discussion about summer recreation for 13-14 year olds. Previous programs for this age group were very successful and was a structured program of sports. and supervised by older adults, not teenagers. Fees for this program paid nearly paid for the costs of the program in the past. We will discuss this further in the new year when we organize next year's summer rec programs.

The head life guard at South Shore in Little Compton asked for our support in collaborating with the YMCA to train lifeguards along with the public schools.

So far this year Grinnell's beach has made \$11,009 and Fogland Beach has made \$15,807.25.

Newport YMCA wants to run a 3 year old soccer program at Bulgarmarsh on Saturdays from 12-2. We voted unanimously to allow them to use the fields for this program.

Mr. Steckman said there has been a survey done of the Bulgarmarsh area by Bill Smith.

2008-09 Budget will increase the same as the tax cap levy which is 4%. Any fees the town raises will offset the bonds from the schools. Discussion about lifeguards salaries and what to put in the budget next year suggested the same as this year but will also depend on the going price for lifeguards in the state. The summer rec. program at Pocasset was very successful but the other schools were very low numbers. It was suggested that the summer rec. program all be run at one location next year due to those numbers. Bob Martin

suggested applying to the Tiverton risk management company for a grant to get safety equipment with a possibility of helping pay for new gymnastics equipment.

An additional \$7k for new gymnastics equipment will be added to budget requests for next year. Bob Martin requested \$4k for re-siding on the bathhouse at Fogland beach. Upcoming meetings: Fogland oversight committee Sept. 20th at 4 pm Town Hall: Stonebridge task force Sept. 20th at 5 pm town hall; and the Farmer's market portion of the Pardon Gray day has been cancelled on September 29th. Phyllis will apply for the Governor's Awards for wellness.

Bob Martin will check as the sign at Town Farm has been vandalized. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Next meeting will be September 18th at 7 pm at Judson community center.