

TOWN OF TAMWORTH BOARD OF
SELECTMEN 84 MAIN STREET
TAMWORTH, NH 03886
TELEPHONE: (603) 323-7525 FAX: (603) 323-2349
WWW.TAMWORTHNH.ORG

Selectmen's Meeting:
5:00 Rec Department Discussion
6:00 PM

Thursday, August 11, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Selectman Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:00. Present are Selectmen Roberts, Prentice, Doucette, Behr, Goodson, Town Administrator Myer, Ed Comeau, Government Oversight, Linda Cook, Kathleen Nugent, Barb Bloomberg, Jamie Killeen, Lisa Thompson, Sharon Norrison, Shawna Peterson. Joined later Kelly Rines, Bruno Siniscalchi, On Zoom: Max Harrison, Maureen & Jim Diamond.

Selectman Behr opened the public discussion on the Recreation Department stating that over the last five years a lot of thinking about the rec department, including two studies have been done. Behr thanked the people who worked on those reports. Behr also thanked those who sent in emails with input. He explained that the goal of the meeting is to do some brainstorming and strategizing for the program. Behr read out highlighted input. Among other comments many said the swim program was the most important thing. Some parents said they couldn't afford the summer program. Some wanted programs for middle schoolers and teens. Suggestions for yoga, dance, hiking trips, and elderly programs. Almost everyone said swimming and sports. Behr shared input about the last rec director feeling isolated and disconnected, and stated this was something the Select board needs to address. Kathleen Nugent asked if Dan was currently the director, Karl said that he is no longer the Rec Director. Barb Bloomberg, a volunteer with the Outing Club, shared that she had heard that people want more family activities. She stated that the ski club is a big challenge to organize and wondered if there was a role for the Rec Director to help with this program. She wonders if the Rec Department could be an umbrella organization for other programming organizations in the town – working to coordinate volunteers, the busses, the equipment, for the ski program but perhaps other programs as well. She also suggested that there be a junior outing club. Jamie Killeen, who is from Tamworth, and has started his own soccer club is an advocate of the coordination model, and having private/nonprofit organizations working to run programs. He stated he could set up multiple programs for the town, focusing on soccer in particular. He tried to last year, but not with a lot of success due to low outreach efforts. He coordinated with Lianne to make a rec team and that worked well. Linda stated that Dan was brand new at that time. Sharon Norrison – what struck her is that there are a number of orgs that are volunteer based, and they are specialized – what needs to happen is to leverage what already exists and organize partnerships. We need someone that can help to coordinate, and leverage existing skills. Barbara – reemphasized the coordination role, stating a win/win for the orgs in town. Shawna Peterson, a parent in town whose kids participated in recreation wanted to know what the fall will look like. Knows that Dan relied heavily on parent volunteers. Will we be a skills building program, or a travelling program? She shared that many parents have challenges: transportation, cost, time/hours. Mr. Killeen stated he can plan on doing whatever the town wants – it can be home and away games, or just on the home field. A discussion ensued about the pros and cons of travelling soccer.

TA Myer reflected that she was hearing a job that is more about project management skill sets, rather than a traditional rec director structure, perhaps a Rec Coordinator. Others agreed that it is community building, marketing skills and lots of volunteer and other coordination. Killeen agreed it's an organizational job, with PR and marketing. Prentice said if you're a good coordinator and you can leverage what's exciting for people – being fluid and responsive, and should have so community and communications skills. Barbara suggested that rec director/coordinator have an office in the school

so as to be highly visible. Helped them to be super connected. Ms. Cook stated that she is not a fan of the liaison thing – she feels that department heads should be more often in the public meeting with the community and BOS. Lisa Thompson agreed that swimming is important and that long term she would like to see a Community Pool (thinking big). Sports that include boys and girls. Shawna mentioned that there aren't enough teachers to support extracurricular activities, and so whatever we can do to support the school for after-school programming would be important.

Also after school childcare is not strong – so parents are really struggling. A huge need for local after school programming. Cook mentioned the struggle to get a lifeguard and that we need to find a lifeguard now, not in the spring. Prentice said you can find programs for training and agreed we need to find people now. Another challenge mentioned by Prentice is that the entities like King Pine and White Lake aren't as interested in the partnerships, we need to be creative and resilient and deal with the challenges. Goodson wants to understand if the Rec department should be a full-time year-round position. Given the right person, we might have enough to rationalize a full time position. A discussion ensued about the pros and cons of a part time position versus a full time position with many comments on both sides. Prentice suggested we should look at most recent report, and reach out to local organizations and brainstorm a list of programs that we feel are essential and figure out if there are potential collaborations and see what that looks like. Some of it is quick work, some is rich and will take a lot of time. Identify some priorities with a clearer plan that we want to commit to. We need to see it on a page to see what we're talking about in terms of staffing.

Sharon – What do we have in front of us to size it, and where do we want to get to – we does “good” look like? Community services that meet the needs of all ages, and abilities, what are the qualities? This would also help shape what this person does. Shawna wondered if we would we hire an interim person to get the fall program going. Recreation Department discussion closed at 5:57, and Roberts called a 3 minute recess.

Roberts Called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm, joining the meeting are Willie Farnum, Chief Littlefield, Glenn Johnson.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC INPUT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Department Report: Tracy Hayes, Welfare Officer. Ms. Hayes shared that generally welfare is any life necessity for the residents. Winter times we would see heat, electric assistance, and that kind of thing. She has been here for over a year and has seen all of those things, including requests for food or gas. To date haven't the town has not spent any money this year. She tries to be really fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars, and tries to help them long term with outside-of-the-box ideas. She thinks we will spend money as the weather gets colder. Lianne asked about the Tamworth's welfare application is long and hard. Does she assist? Usually she gets a phone call first, and they fill out what they can fill out, and she gets as many docs as she can. They'll fill it in and hand it in. Emery thanked her for coming in.
- Arts Council of Tamworth (ACT), Max Harrison, Lisa Thompson. Lisa is the president of the Arts council of Tamworth. Max being introduced an idea to improve the Remick Park with modern play equipment and public art, that would be commissioned and would be a point of pride. to create a fun hub. He stated the playground is underwhelming. This would cost the town almost nothing. Art council will do all the fundraising, and coordinating. It would all be an open conversation with input from the town. Kelly asked if this project is contingent on the grant. Timeline for applying for the grant is very soon. The grant is from the New Hampshire Endowment for the Arts and is up to \$150,000. The council would keep it New Hampshire based, Local artists, local contractors. Max confirmed that it is an evolving conversation. There is a lot of local expertise. The goal is to enhance what is there. Cook stated that she not against making the playground better but doesn't feel the need for lots of art. It is possible that liability insurance would go up, but most likely not much. If they wanted light, that would need to be added. Prentice made a

motion that knowing that we don't have to accept the grant, the Select Board to write a letter to support the grant to get this process started, knowing that it will not include any additional cost to the tax payers, Goodson seconded. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Mr. Farnum then asked who receives the money, answer is the arts council.

- Rec Department Discussion Summary: Roberts summarized for those who were not at the earlier meeting: Lots of good input about the Rec Department. Maybe we should focus on a coordinator to connect with existing programs rather than recreating programs. And a discussion about full or part time director. During the last process we had hoped to find someone who wasn't so focused on sports, but would include field trips and arts. So we are still looking for that. Afterschool. More discussion to come. Question we will need to answer: Do we find someone per diem to get the fall program going. Bruno – would we consider sharing with another town? Emery talked about transportation, it is so hard right now – expense and time – if we collaborated with another town (Madison for example) so that's challenge in sharing a rec program. Goodson thanked everyone who came to the meeting and gave input.
- TSIC RFQ Update, Willie Farnum: Wanted to give a brief update - trying to get a draft RFQ – you'll notice there are highlighted questions for the USDA. Goal is to have a final draft of this by next week. TA can be the contact person, a deadline for response, 9/31 for the engineers. Then a period for review, then schedule interviews. Need a list of minority owned businesses for example. Richard will research. Kelly Rines – how many recycling centers do we have in town? North Country deals with metals, and Rickers. Those are the two he knows of. They are actually transfers stations. We belong to NRRA as a town. Our recycling goes to the highest bidder.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Account Balance: \$ 4,448,133
- Myer reported that an announcement has been posted in the Conway Daily Sun, on the Website, on the exchange, and on our front bulletin board. The price was set at \$1,000, with a minimum deposit of \$500. We have had one call from someone who would like to view the trailer on the inside. We will allow for a one time public viewing on Saturday Aug 20th from 10:00-11:00.
- 91A training has been scheduled for Monday September 12 at 5:00. It will only be offered to the elected and appointed as I didn't realize neither training courses will allow the general public.
- Myer shared the list of departments – Richard talked about why he would like to see what other departments that could come in to share what they are doing, to increase the flow of communications. Emery, it might be useful for the public to hear what's going on – so not oversight, rather simply to hear what's going on with the department. An update for everyone. Maybe we double up on reports. Police and fire in particular do a big and a small every week. Or do smaller ones. Keats will send out a schedule.

SIGNATURE FILE:

- Roberts motioned to approve Selectmen's Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2022, seconded by Goodson roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts Abstain.
- Roberts motioned to approve Selectmen's Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2022, seconded by Goodson roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes
- Roberts motioned to approve of Non-Public Minutes - RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Session #1, August 4, 2022, seconded by Goodson roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice abstain, Roberts yes
- Roberts motioned to approve of Non-Public Minutes - RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Session #2, August 4, 2022, seconded by Goodson, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes
- Roberts motioned to approve of Non-Public Minutes - RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Session #3, August 4, 2022, seconded by Goodson roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts

abstain

- Roberts motioned to approve Taxpayer Repayment Agreement, Map 215, Lot 006, seconded Goodson by roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts abstain
- Roberts motioned to approve Account Payable - \$291,924.34, seconded by Goodson roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes
- Year to Date - \$4,943,180.90

SELECTMEN'S UPDATE:

Doucette: Had a conversation with the chair of the Sewer Commission. They have a written agreement between the group of 5 or so people willing to pay for the study of the sewer capacity. So this is moving forward.

Behr: Went to the Library of Trustees meeting but forgot his notes, and so will report on that next week.

Goodson: went to the Conservation Commission meeting, topic was the Betty Steele loop. Also discussed getting the word out about Hiking Herons. There has been a decline in people going for that badge.

People have checked out the mapping overlays and are having a hard time finding the key to go with the maps. Tamworth nurses want to put in a handicapped accessible path off of Scott Road, and have parking at Hammond Trail parking. Which might be tight.

Prentice: Short personnel meeting this week, will reconvene and plan to work on a survey to town personnel on policies.

Roberts: Spoke with Richard Roberts who have been working on Brown Hill Road. State that some have a concern about all the trees that have been tagged: checkered flags are Eversource. Town trees are tagged in orange, and only taking down those that are dead or dangerous. Mr. Siniscalchi wants record to show that Richard Roberts is doing a great job. Cook noted that the porto potties are still there, Karl will call again. Cook also mentioned that last Thursday night's storm made a mess of the parking lot and it is still a mess. Tree by Ordination Rock should be looked at, it is unsafe. Linda asked about the CIP planning for the Town House. Windowsills at the town house are rotting and need to be replaced. Karl will look at it. So it would need to be added to the CIP.

NON-PUBLIC: At 7:10 Roberts motioned to go into Non Public – RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and Non Public – RSA 91-A:3 II (c), Goodson seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes

Roberts motioned to come out of Non Public at 7:44, seconded by Goodson, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes

ADJOURNMENT: Roberts motioned to adjourn at 7:45

Emery Roberts, Chair _____

Karl Behr _____

Richard Doucette _____

Kelly Goodson _____

Lianne Prentice_____