

## APPROVED

### East Montpelier Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2017

Members in attendance – Phillip Heinz, Jan Aldrich, Robert Fitch, Cristin O’Donnell, Michael Blanchard, Jack Zeilenga, Alex Rob

Non-Members in attendance – Kris Jensen

Meeting called to order 7:20 PM

- Public statement – letter from Kristi Flynn read aloud to the board. Copy attached to minutes.
- Financial overview
  - Bob Fitch met with Don Welch on June 9.
  - Town has received box with Rec financials and are sorting through.
    - Checks for soccer, basketball recently cashed.
  - Bob has financial info in QuickBooks from 2008 forward.
  - Latest statement shows \$6,900 minus cost for Easter egg hunt and payments to basketball referees.
  - Current process requires all cash and receipts to go to a town officer. The treasurer of the Recreation Board will be put before the town Select Board for consideration to have ability to collect and pay out money for Rec Department transactions.
  - All invoices must go through the town Select Board for payment.
  - All payments made must have a receipt – including sports sign ups.
  - Bills can be submitted for payment at any Select Board meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.
  - Projects to be considered over the next ten years with an anticipated cost of more than \$5,000 can be put forth to the town for funding consideration. Each project must be submitted individually. Projects for consideration by the Rec Department include a new shed, lights on the fields, resurfacing of the baseball fields, and a park with an outdoor stage.
- Public statement – Kris Jensen shared a public statement regarding an incident that occurred with his son during basketball season while he was coaching/officiating and his view of the resulting disciplinary actions and follow through. The issue as it related to Dr. Jensen and the Board was discussed.
- While he was before the board, Kris gave a brief baseball update. The seasons have been very successful for all teams. There are some concerns about the condition of the baseball field,

particularly the pitching mound. There is an opportunity to get some donated material for the field from Pike, but it requires someone with a large enough truck to haul it back. Mike will do some research on options for fixing the pitching mound before next baseball season. The board will also follow up with Central Vermont Little League to see if there is money available for field repairs.

- Phillip updated the group on the Select Board meeting held on June 5.
  - The Rec Board needs to have all financials and insurance information in order before the Select Board will consider the request for separation from the town.
- After providing the information available that was requested by Mrs. Flynn and receiving her response, the records request process is completed.
- The board has two insurance providers that it is reviewing for potential coverage of student-athletes, coaches and board members. All board members have been asked to review the policies and share their thoughts and questions before the board moves forward with requests for quotes.
- The board will be reviewing and in some cases rewriting its policies and procedures as well as considering writing a new set of by-laws.
- With baseball season winding down, focus is now starting to shift to the fall soccer season. Phillip is looking for someone to help him run the program in fall 2017.
- Board members will be conducting an equipment inventory over the summer to determine what, if anything, needs to be ordered. This also includes uniforms.
- The board authorized Phillip to continue conversations with local vendors to determine the feasibility of receiving donated materials and/or labor to help construct a new shed on the Recreation Field.
- Discussion on the topic of charging for field use was tabled and will be discussed at a future meeting.
- The Recreation Field is in need of clean up to include weeding, trimming, etc. There are safety concerns regarding the large patch of overgrown poison ivy and foliage that makes it difficult to see traffic on Vincent Flats Road.
- A motion was passed directing Phillip to go before the town select board to see if the town is willing to act on two safety concerns at the Recreation Field.
  - Poison ivy overgrowth is a hazard and needs removal along with additional overgrown foliage that makes line of sight difficult exiting the field.

- A “Do Not Enter” or “Wrong Way” sign is needed at the exit of the Recreation Field parking area by the baseball field. At baseball and soccer games it is not unusual for visitors who are not familiar with the field to enter with their vehicles in the exit. This poses a risk not only to cars exiting in the appropriate direction, but the area is oftentimes where children are nearby when there is a baseball game or practice, paying attention to traffic coming from the proper direction in the parking area, but not coming in (sometimes quickly) from the exit.
- Next steps in cleanup of the Recreation Field will be determined after Phillip has spoken with the Select Board.
- The board is still discussing a thank you gift of some kind in appreciation of former members who have left the board over the last few years.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM

Next meeting to be held on July 10, 2017 at 7:15 PM, starting on the East Montpelier Recreation Field.

## ADDENDUM

June 11, 2017

To the East Montpelier Recreation Board

Attn: Phillip Heinz and Mike Blanchard, Co-Chairs

I appreciate you sending me the agendas and minutes that you had, but frankly, I was a little disappointed in the number of meetings and minutes you recorded over the past 4 years. Please note that I offered my services to take minutes in May 2016 and was told that you were all set. After reviewing everything received, I would like to put this coaching issue away forever. I don't want to discuss again what has happened in the past. We will have to agree to disagree; I probably can't change your mind and you most definitely will not change mine. I believe the way CJ has been treated over the past 4+ years is disgraceful. Every coach was poisoned ahead of each season since our daughter was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and I hope that no volunteer coach is ever treated that way again.

Moving on from here, I would request a few things from this board.

- 1) Treat all people, especially your volunteer coaches, with respect.

It is my belief that you, as a board, do not support your coaches. Too many times, I have seen or heard that the word of a coach/parent, particularly from those outside East Montpelier, is taken over the word of your own coach often without getting your coach's perspective; that has to stop. You state in your own Policies and Procedures Manual how you deal with disciplinary matters, but I'm not sure you actually follow them. Keep in mind when choosing coaches that just because someone played the game and knows the rules, it doesn't make them a good coach.

- 2) Schedule and hold regular meetings.

This also means that agendas are available publicly, at least a day in advance of the meeting, and minutes posted to the town website within 5 days after your meeting. This is state statute for all municipal boards. Every other board and committee in East Montpelier follows these rules. Part of your meeting should be devoted to reviewing and approving your draft minutes. I was glad to see the draft minutes from your May meetings posted on the town website. Going forward, please add me to your e-mail distribution of agendas and minutes ([Kristi.flynn@yahoo.com](mailto:Kristi.flynn@yahoo.com)).

- 3) Please seriously consider the name of your board, as well as the non-profit.

There are many places in town already where the board is listed as a board (town website), a committee (your own documents) and an association (EMES website). This is very confusing; consistency and clarity is needed in this case. East Montpelier Recreation as a name for your non-profit seems to be too close to the current name; be creative. If you truly want clarity in the responsibilities, you should come up with a different name. As a board, you should also take

the time to discuss and reflect upon whether a non-profit is the right thing for the board and the town at this time.

And finally,

- 4) I suggest that the entire board be more fully engaged in what is going on.

It appears from the outside that Phillip is completely running the show and that will never work long term, especially if you desire to become a non-profit, which presumably will be a lot more work. You have set up your executive committee with a Co-Chair for a reason; if one of the co-chairs cannot make the meeting, the other can run the meeting when an agenda is available in advance. Cancelling meetings at the last minute is not in the best interest of the town or the board members.

Thank you for your time and for taking my comments seriously.

***Please make sure that this correspondence is included in the minutes of your next meeting.***