

**Town Of Bedford  
Recreation Commission  
December 22, 2016, 7:00PM  
12 Mudge Way, Flint Room**

***Members Present:***

Ron Richter, Mike O'Shaughnessey, Robin Steele, Tom Mulligan and Virendar Kaushik.

Absent: None

Quorum: Yes

***Others Present:***

Recreation Director: Amy Hamilton, Resident: Edwin Kellogg.

***Proceedings:***

*Meeting called to order at 7:00PM by Ron Richter, Commission Chairman.*

**Springs Brook Park Discussion**

Ron Richter states that the purpose of the meeting is to pinpoint a method of operation to present before the Board of Selectmen. The goal of meeting with the BOS is to request that the town financially supports SBP as a valuable town amenity.

The Commission agrees that financial need should be proven before a request for funds is made. There have been multiple contributors to the state of the revolving fund. In addition to the losses SBP incurred, Richter mentions significant losses that have occurred in the soccer and basketball programs.

*Operation Models as mentioned in Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting are reviewed.*

Richter states that SBP is an amenity that the town wants and the town should help subsidize it. He continues, stating that it does not make sense for Recreation to continue funding the park. The Commission agrees that the issue should be presented to the BOS, making the case that the park cannot continue without their help.

*Virender Kaushik presents an excel table to the Commission. The Commission reviews different financial scenarios, utilizing the Excel sheet as a tool to input different operational costs and models in attempt to determine the financial outcome of each option.*

Kaushik states that given current park costs, Recreation would need to quadruple memberships just to break even. He suggests editing staffing and management costs in order to help make up for the costs of the park. A recommended change included utilizing

a staff member to close the park in order to send (higher paid) management home at an earlier time.

Raeann Gembris responds, stating that current state standards dictate much of SBP employee operations. In addition to state standards, the size of the park, pond and, volume of patrons is taken into consideration when scheduling employees. Emergencies are not convenient; the same emergency that occurs at 12 in the afternoon could happen at close as well. It is imperative to have properly trained management at all times. She voices a concern for safety when faced with this suggestion to cut expenses.

Richter states that even with a best-case model, the Commission is asking the BOS to provide a figure in the ballpark of \$100,000. He warns that there is a possibility that SBP doesn't increase memberships, which would mean that the revolving fund is once again absorbing the cost and is placed at risk. He suggests that a conservative view is presented in order to protect the revolving fund.

Amy states that many alternatives have been considered to help mitigate monetary loss at SBP, while maintaining safety. She pinpoints opening the shallow end of the pond as a viable option.

Richter shows concern that memberships won't meet the Commissioner's higher projections. Stating that, even in the best-case scenarios, the revolving fund is being placed at risk. Bedford Resident Edwin Kellogg mirrors this concern, stating that betting on increased memberships is akin to "pie in the sky", counting on nothing.

The Commission deliberates over high, medium and low park offerings. They discuss what each option could entail and whether or not it would satisfy the most residents. Discontinuing certain amenities may alienate more residents than the park can withstand losing. Partially due to this fact, all available options result in similar monetary losses.

Amy warns that anyone in the position to support the park (such as the BOS) will want to be assured that Recreation will not be in the same position the following year. Richter seconds this concern, "programs ebb and flow. If the Selectmen ask if we will be here next year the answer will be yes." Kaushik concurs. Funding the park once will not resolve these issues.

The Commission is concerned that even with monetary support, the Department will not be able to obtain an adequate number of lifeguards. It would be difficult to attempt to interview and hire support under the pretense that they will only receive the position if the program runs.

Ron wraps up by stating that the Commission has deliberated many different options. They will present their best prediction regarding projected costs, membership counts etc.

- The Recreation Commission will be scheduled onto an upcoming Selectmen's agenda.

*Adjournment at 9:20 PM governed by Ron Richter, Committee Chairman.  
Minutes submitted by Michelle Racette, Recording Secretary.*