

MINUTES OF RECREATION COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM  
January 25, 2017 – 4:00 PM

Committee Members Present:      Councilor Marty Pepin, Chair  
   Councilor Jon McCallion (Entered at 4:28)  
   Councilor Nancie Cameron  
   Councilor Martin P. Dumont, Sr.

Administration/Staff Present:      Bob Belmore, City Manager  
   Shanna B. Saunders, Dir. Planning & Comm. Dev.  
   Kristen Ducharme, Recreation Supervisor  
   Trish Harris, City Clerk

Others Present:                              Judi Curry

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Councilor Pepin called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

APPROVAL PAST MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Cameron, to approve the November 9, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried, 3-0.

RESOLUTION 26-17, RE: NAMING CITIZENS' PARK

City Manager Belmore said the Mayor asked them to develop a form for citizens to place flags on the flag pole at the park. He showed an example of the form.

Councilor Pepin asked about the historical plaque that was supposed to be put on the property. City Manager Belmore said it was still the plan.

Councilor Dumont asked about the tulips that were planted and who was caring for them. Director Saunders said she believes they have been removed.

Councilor Pepin asked if we are planning on planting tulips again or just grass. City Manager Belmore said this is a work in process. Nothing has been decided yet. Councilor Pepin said as long as it looks good, that is all that matters

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to support Resolution 26-17. The motion passed, 3-0.

RECREATION DIVISION UPDATES

Kristin Ducharme discussed the events that are outlined in the handout that was distributed. She said they are in the heart of basketball season with over 100 participants. The numbers down about 20 kids from last year.

Councilor Dumont asked why the Rec department does the Father/daughter dance and not the school. There was discussion that many communities do this.

Director Saunders distributed photos of Mast Point Dam Rec area. There was discussion about the photos. Councilor Pepin said the conservation commission had a function, and the group of people who took the walk was amazed. Director Saunders said they are hoping to have a ribbon cutting in the spring.

Rec Supervisor Ducharme said the developer did much of the improvements and upgrades that were required in Millennium Park. The remaining work will happen in the spring.

Director Saunders she has been in discussion with the City of Berwick about the possibility of a Riverwalk. The TAP grant may not be applicable for the Berwick side. It is mostly for roads. Somersworth side may apply for TAP funding because it is a transportation alternative to Main Street. Chinburg is very interested in working with both sides. There was an old Riverwalk.

Councilor Dumont asked about the Buffumsville Road entrance to the river walk. Most of the trails are to the right.

Supervisor Ducharme said you can follow the trail to the left but it doesn't get enough foot traffic. It needs to be cleaned out.

There was discussion about crossings; one over the railroad by the Somersworth Library and another over the river in Berwick by the counting house.

At Aclara there are security issues. They don't want a riverwalk behind that property.

Different options were discussed.

Councilor Dumont asked who will be responsible for the upkeep and how is it funded. City Manager Belmore said funding is determined by whether winter maintenance is required. Federal money means it would have to be ADA accessible, and snow removable would be required. If its TAP money, it needs to be maintained year around. It is a few years down the line. 2019 for TAP.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Dumont said, at the council meeting there was a concept about a dog park on the Hilltop School project. Maybe this committee could be charged with alternative areas. Councilor Pepin asked City Manager Belmore to look into a possible location for a dog park.

Councilor Dumont said he has been approached by William Slater, who is the head of a group of people who would like to create snowmobile and ATV trails through Somersworth. Snowmobiles and ATV's have pluses and minuses. In a town in Maine, they have a "snow-deo"; big gathering and thousands of people. If Somersworth were to entertain that, there is a potential for people to start here and finish up north.

Councilor Pepin said this has been going on over 10 years. There have been at least 3 meetings on this. The group proposed that they start by the Dover Hospital, go through Rollinsford, across High Street, by the Police Department, across the landfill, across West High Street, across the

Oaks Golf Course and to Rochester. The concern was the landfill and Crossing High Street among other things.

Previous Recreation Committee said if he could get everything approved, then council would look at it. Councilor Pepin said he gets a call almost weekly. Mr. Slater has been told that it could go in front of council when he has all the signatures.

Councilor McCallion said it's dangerous. Where can you cross without playing a game of Frogger on High Street? In his mind, he does not see a clear cut route through.

City Manager Belmore said there are other issues of conservation easements in neighborhoods and around the Oaks. Once he has a plan and all of the signatures needed, the council can look at it.

Councilor Dumont said there has to be a clear communication that this isn't going to happen the way he is going about it. Councilor Pepin has told him that he has to have the whole proposal.

McCallion asked if the SAA (Somersworth Athletic Association) has contacted Kristin Ducharme. She said they have, and there has been no more conversation about the website.

Councilor Dumont asked if Kristin Ducharme is using the recreation facility. She is, and has been told that she submit her event earlier.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilor Dumont seconded by Councilor Cameron to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, 4-0. Meeting adjourned 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Trish Harris, City Clerk