

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

PRESENT: Selectmen: Chairman Steve Volpone, Jr., Ted Tocci, Shawn Hanson
Recreation Commission: Chairman Frank Ferreira, Lynn Stan, Pam Fitzgerald,
Larry Smith, Peter Robart.

Town Administrator: Eric Small

Chairman S. Volpone called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Governor Weare Park (GWP)

S. Volpone began the meeting by summarizing the various issues at GWP:

- Use of the fields by various athletic groups – Hampton Attack (HA) for soccer and lacrosse), field hockey, and Hampton Youth Association (HYA) and its proposed use of the baseball field.
- The installation of a temporary outfield fence and its encroachment onto the right field and the limitations for the playing of lacrosse during the late spring, early summer.
- Development of an Agreement with HYA for the use of the baseball field.

T. Tocci stated that the main purpose of this meeting is talking about the Recreation Commission's role in managing the activities at GWP. He explained that the HYA approached the Board of Selectmen about making an agreement with the HYA for the use of the baseball field. The activities at GWP should be in the hands of the Recreation Commission and that Selectmen and Recreation Commission should be involved with any Agreements with the athletic organizations that use these fields.

P. Robart spoke about the original plans for the park which included soccer and baseball. Lacrosse and field hockey games came several years after the soccer fields were developed.

About three years ago, Timberland's Servapalooza organization made improvements to GWP in memory of Lori Rix, whose children played soccer at GWP. Timberland employees developed the baseball field which included irrigation, building the infield, erecting a backstop and growing a lawn. Hampton Falls resident Mark Lane serves on the board of the HYA. More than 600 children in the area towns participate and there are about 50 from Hampton Falls.

It was noted that Hampton Falls resident Jim MacVane is on the board of directors for HA. P. Robart was not aware until recently that HA needed the bigger field (right field) for lacrosse.

P. Robart said that the HYA does not plan to interfere with the scheduled games on the right field for this season. Before HYA begins making improvements to the baseball field, the drainage needs to be completed

S. Volpone pointed out that the real problem with the use of the fields will occur in 2008. One option for the overlap of uses of the right field would be for the lacrosse to use the left field, with the possibility that there might be additional room for expansion on that side of the field.

L. Smith explained how the field was built and that Steve Sicard was instrumental in getting it constructed at a low cost.

He stated that HYA is more of an instructional program, in that all children have an opportunity to play in most every game. P. Fitzgerald pointed out that the children are charged to participate, a fee of about \$45

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

each. HA, on the other hand, is by invitation only and all of the children that try out are accepted into the program.

Selectmen agreed that they would like to Recreation Commission to manage the activities at GWP. P. Fitzgerald suggested a sub-committee within the Commission.

The town's only obligation with the HYA would be the mowing of the fields and fixing the drainage problem to the right of the baseball field.

It was mentioned that the Town made no promises of lights for the field. F. Ferreira said that the Recreation Commission opposed lights, so that it could cause problems for the neighbors.

The Selectmen felt that an agreement should be made with all athletic groups using GWP. L. Stan stated that a ten year agreement is too long. Others stated that if HYA is willing to improve the field that there should be a long term commitment. Any agreement over one year would have to be approved by voters at an annual town meeting. Agreements would negotiated jointly by the Board of Selectmen and the Recreation Commission. The proposed Agreement with HYA was distributed to the members of the Recreation Commission.

T. Tocci pointed out that surrounding towns have full time recreation departments with budgets much higher than that of Hampton Falls (\$21,000). The town of Hampton Falls needs to work with the athletic groups for a successful program.

Selectmen invited the Recreation commission to attend the Selectmen's meeting on Wednesday, 7:30 a.m., when Jim MacVane of HA would be addressing the Board about the use of the fields. F. Ferreira and L. Stan will not be attending as they will be out of town.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Minutes taken by E. N. Small

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