

Open Space and Recreation Committee
January 24, 2012

Members Present:

Robert Sweeney, Stephen Sylvester, Dennis Visconti, Joanne St. Pierre, Therese DiBlasi, Joan DiGiulio, Angelika Paul, Maureen Houghton, Denise Healy, James Sarno, Lou Chiulli

Ms. Houghton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Introductions were made and a brief history of the committee was given and discussion ensued relative to the role of the committee and why it almost failed.

Election of Officers: Ms. Houghton nominated Dennis Visconti, as chairman, seconded by Ms. DiBlasi - unanimous

Mr. Sweeney nominated Ms. St. Pierre as Vice Chairman, and Ms. DiBlasi seconded the motion - unanimous

Ms. Houghton nominated Ms. Healy as Secretary and Mr. Sylvester seconded the motion - unanimous. Ms. Houghton indicated she would assist Ms. Healy with typing and distribution of same. Discussion ensued relative to the minutes being provided to the Selectmen inasmuch as it was discovered that the minutes had not been shared with them in the past. It was noted that the predecessor to this committee, youth commission was mandated by statute and Unicorn by the town code.

Mr. Arzillo was unable to attend the meeting but provided the committee with a report. Discussion ensued relative to uses for Stoneham Oaks. Mr. Sweeney suggested a driving/practice range as a potential to make more money at the Oaks such as the facility in Beverly. Ms. DiBlasi commented on the condition of the golf course and speculated that staffing may have contributed to the condition of the course.

Mr. Chiulli briefed the committee on the status at the Arena. He noted that he is booked solid and in January there were only two hours not booked. In February the only time available was the midnight hour. Rate \$220 per hour, and a \$5.00 gate fee. Busiest season as yet. Youth Hockey p to date with ice bills. Discussion ensued relative to raising the rate to \$225 (up \$5 per hour next year). He noted that the rink was booked up to April with tournaments in March July and August booked as well. There is a small area in the roof to be patched. Concession is doing well for its second year under new management - \$750 per mo. and open 9-7. There is no pro shop - no staff. Compressors at some point may need replacement. Lou talked about power outages - no back up generator and the cost of new one is not realistic. It has been a good year. He has been using the website to note any ice availability and that has worked well. Personnel, two are sick, and one is going to DCR but he has hired two to start soon. Mr. Chiulli meets

with TA daily. If he needs any equipment or money issues he reports to TA who in turn reports same to Selectmen for warrant article.

There has been a decline in golf income due to weather and disposable income.

Parks - Discussion ensued relative to the school and town parks. It was noted that the Town Common was the only area that organic materials is used. Ms. DiBlasi questioned whether the golf course was using organic materials. Mr. Sweeney said no. It was noted that the DPW is not certified to use organic materials. It was questioned as to whether the schools are organic and it is felt that they are. A question arose as to what budget the cost of the organic material comes from. Discussion ensued relative to the parks program. It was noted that probably Broadway was treated with organic materials.

Further discussion ensued relative to the conditions of the towns playgrounds. Ms. Paul noted she is working with Rounds to improve same. Mr. Sarno questioned how she was obtaining funds - she indicated via fundraising efforts of she and her committee.

It was noted that the youth groups in town were joining together - soccer, little league etc. It was suggested that the committee meet with this group at a future meeting. It was noted that the Boys and Girls club had incorporated the recreation programs that Ms. DelRossi had been overseeing in the Recreation Department. It was suggested we invite the new executive director to a future meeting to discuss the transition. It was noted that the Boys and Girls club backed out of the field house which is now going to Pop Warner. There is a new director at the Boys and Girls Club.

It was suggested that the minutes be given to Muriel to be distributed to the Selectmen.

No open space plan has been done in many years. The last time it was done there was a committee appointed by the Selectmen relative to the Open Space plan consisting of a member of the Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, etc. but then it was supposed to be taken over by this committee. It is one of the charges to the committee, however, it has not been discussed with the committee as to any time line.

Discussion ensued relative to advertising at the rink and golf course. It was noted that there was very little money allocated in either of the budgets for advertising.

Next meeting at 2/14/12 at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Healy made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Sylvester seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Denise Healy

Open Space and Recreation Committee
March 13, 2012

Members Present:

Stephen Sylvester, Steve McDonough, Maureen Houghton, Denise Healy, Rick Arzillo

Excused: Robert Sweeney, Dennis Visconti, James Sarno, Angelika Paul, Lou Chiulli

Absent: Joanne St. Pierre, Therese DiBlasi, Joan DiGiulio

Ms. Houghton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of January 24, 2012 were reviewed. It was noted that Pop Warner is now known as Youth Football. No vote could be taken as there was no quorum.

Mr. Chiulli was unable to attend the meeting due to the State Tournaments. When he called to indicate he could not attend, he indicated the tournaments were going well and the rink was running smoothly.

Mr. Arzillo briefed the committee on the status at the Golf Courses. The Unicorn Golf Course was officially opened on March 8 and the Par 3 will open on April 15. The course is in good condition - it has been dry. Last season most weekends it rained which cut into the revenues. Rick indicated that credit cards will now be taken at the golf course for greens fees. There has been a decline in golf income due to weather and disposable income. The finance board had met the night prior to the meeting Rick discussed a venture with LSA Marketing Company for tee signs with granite markers, tee signs and rules signs. They obtain the advertising and Rick and staff would do the installation. There would be a 60/40 split on the proceeds. Discussion ensued relative to the proposal as well as regarding staffing.

Parks - Discussion ensued relative to the school and town parks. It was noted that Ms. Houghton had been in touch with the Boys and Girls Club to invite the interim executive director to attend a later meeting.

Next meeting either 4/10/12 or 4/11/12 at 7:00 p.m. depending on the election.

Ms. Healy made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Sylvester seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Denise Healy

Open Space and Recreation Committee
April 11, 2012

Members Present:

Joan DiGiulio, Stephen Sylvester, Steve McDonough, Maureen Houghton, Dennis Visconti, Angelika Paul, Lou Chiulli

Excused: Robert Sweeney, Denise Healy, James Sarno, Rick Arzillo, Therese DiBlasi

Absent: Joanne St. Pierre, Christopher Abreu

Ms. Houghton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of January 24, 2012 and March 13, 2012 were reviewed. No vote could be taken as there was no quorum.

Mr. Arzillo was unable to attend the meeting due but provided a report. Discussion ensued relative to information noted in the Stoneham Independent concerning the golf course. Ms. Paul indicated she had read in another area open space was used as a cemetery.

Mr. Chiulli indicated that the arena was booked for the summer. Figure Skating program brought in \$25,000.00 last year. He indicated there would be no ice in the summer. There will be a girl's league starting on Sunday nights as a summer league. Hockey North will be at the area in the summer as well. Working well with Stoneham Youth Hockey. It was noted that the principal of one of the skating clubs at the area had passed away but Mr. Chiulli has been told that the program will continue. Shut down for the arena will be May 25, 2012 – the floor will be painted and the compressors will be replaced within two years with that in place the compressors can be shut down 8/9 hours per day saving \$3500.00 per month. He is working on obtaining part time help. The rate will be \$225 for 50 minutes. High schools are \$250 per hour with the exception of Stoneham High School. The arena hosted 19 state tournaments and there may be more next year. The tournaments went well without incident. Stoneham Youth Hockey \$8,000.00 due to advertising transferred to Randy Perrillo's firm now doing the advertising – he will receive ½ of the advertising. Concession stand doing well – especially during the tournaments. The firefighters/EMT 's will be doing a tournament. The staff is working the apportioned hours with hopes that all vacation time will be covered.

Ms. Paul indicated that she had some fundraisers coming up for Rounds playground and that the Easter egg hunt generated many children. More than they expected as many did not make reservations. She indicated that donations could be sent to her address at 12 Broadway but the checks to be made out to the Town of Stoneham. She passed out flyers for a June 23, 2012 Stoneham Family Day.

Parks - Discussion ensued relative to the s Ms. Houghton's discussion with the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. DeVillars indicated he would try to come to one of our meetings but that it was his impression that the B&G Club were to only incorporate the parks program into their programs. They had two staff at each park and the asst. mgr. Oversaw the staff. Discussion ensued relative to Youth Football now overseeing the building at Rec. Park.

Discussion ensued relative to the Warrant Article(s) forthcoming for the Town meeting.

Next meeting May 8, 2012 but contingent on Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Visconti made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Sylvester seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Denise Healy

Open Space and Recreation Committee
May 15, 2012

Members Present:

Stephen Sylvester, Steve McDonough, Maureen Houghton, Dennis Visconti, James Sarno

Excused: Joan DiGiulio, Angelika Paul, Robert Sweeney, Denise Healy, Therese DiBlasi, Rick Arzillo, Lou Chiulli

Absent: Joanne St. Pierre, Christopher Abreu

Ms. Houghton opened the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of April 11, 2012 were reviewed. No vote could be taken as there was no quorum.

Mr. Arzillo was unable to attend the meeting due but provided a report. Discussion ensued relative to information noted in the Stoneham Independent concerning the Stoneham Oaks golf course.

Mr. Chiulli was unable to attend and indicated that the arena is scheduled for shut down next week. The ice will be coming out and they will clean the floor, examine it, and then the ice will be put back in. He has approval to hire two more 18 hour or under employees and a weekend supervisor. He hopes to have the compressors electrical work done after Memorial Day week this year and the mechanical work done next year with new control panels that will assist in keeping the rink at an acceptable cooling level and will save money as they can be lowered remotely when necessary. They will have three Mass Hockey tournaments next year and from Feb to April will have tournaments every weekend. He will also have MIAA games as well. Next year ice will run at \$225 per 50-minute block. Public Skating rates as follows: Adults, \$5; Children, \$4; Seniors, \$3.

Parks - Discussion ensued relative to Ms. Houghton's discussion with the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. DeVillars indicated he would try to come to our meetings, but he was not in attendance. He indicated that they are planning to have the Parks Program at East Park only. There is a \$25.00 fee to join the Boys and Girls Club – it was felt mainly for insurance purposes. He indicated that his summer camp programs incorporated some of the programs the Recreation Department used to run but that it was his impression that the B&G Club were to only incorporate the parks program into their programs. He also indicated that he was unaware of any contract between the Town and the Boys and Girls Club. He did indicate that they did check to have access to the ball field when they needed to use it. A question was raised relative to who was doing the field permitting. Mr., Visconti had contacted Ms. Delrossi who indicated that it was her impression that

there was not contract. She also indicated that Dennis O'Haran, a volunteer at the Senior Center was handling the field permits

Discussion ensued relative to having the next meeting at either the golf course or the rink so the new members could tour the facilities. Ms. Houghton will arrange a meeting at the golf course as the rink will be in shut down.

Next meeting June 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at Unicorn Golf Course.

Mr. Visconti made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Sylvester seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Denise Healy

Open Space and Recreation Committee
June 12, 2012

Members Present:

Stephen Sylvester, Steve McDonough, Maureen Houghton, Dennis Visconti, James Sarno, Denise Healy

Excused: Joan DiGiulio, Angelika Paul, Robert Sweeney, Therese DiBlasi, Rick Arzillo,

Absent: Joanne St. Pierre, Christopher Abreu

Ms. Houghton opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of May 15, 2012 were reviewed. No vote could be taken as there was no quorum.

Mr. Arzillo was indicated length of fence 3rd hole matching existing fence by Cleveland Fence. Golf Course in good condition - even better than last year d/t weekends fair weather - level funded re budget - hiring 18 y.o. Jonathan Radigan who was on the golf team/Medford for the summer. par 3 - busy on good days, weekends and Jr. League It is breakin geven. Cart path and construction of bunker renovation;/tree work - capital equipment need to be updated..

Mr. Chiulli was unable to attend and indicated that the arena had no new business from last month.

Parks - Melrose funding from golf course (Mt. hood), Pine Banks, Malden and Melrose Collaboration - has own numbe with caretaker on site - fed/state mone for golf course to fields.

Discussion ensued relative to having the next meeting at either the golf course or the rink so the new members could tour the facilities. Ms. Houghton will arrange a meeting at the golf course as the rink will be in shut down. Will do rink in September.

No meetings in August and September. Next meeting in September at the rink.

Mr. Visconti made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Sylvester seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Denise Healy