

Open Space & Recreation September 13, 2017 Monthly Meeting
Town Hall Conference Room

Meeting called to order by Chair Dennis Visconti at 6:35 pm.

Attendees. Dennis Visconti, Cynthia Hemenway, Steve Sylvester,
Stephen McDonough, Aldo Ursino

James Sarno, Maura Campbell, Therese DiBlasi, Cathy Richardson,
John Bracchiotti

Absent members, David Goodberg, Steve Angelo, Recreation Director

Guest – Eric Rubin – Stoneham Soccer

- 1) Open Space study committee- Finishing up. Booth at Town Day. One last Open House at Town Hall on September 26, 5-8pm
- 2) Erin Wortman is proposing a Warrant Article for Town Meeting on October 16th, to change the language of zoning to allow more flexibility when considering areas for non-public use on Town owned property. For example, Fields that are not in use could be rented out as a lay down area with the idea of improving the field after it is used for the rental purpose.
- 3) Maura expressed concerns over who approves the area for lay down or other uses. Need to consider public safety. Steve Sylvester suggested rewording and expanding the information on who will be responsible for making the decision on renting areas.
- 4) Motion made by Steve McDonough to approve request from Town Planner (Erin Wortman) that the OSR committee is in favor of the warrant article as written. Second by Kathy Richardson, changing the zoning by law. Motion passed. No vote from Steve Sylvester and Aldo Ursino
- 5) Guest Eric Rubin – Stoneham Resident – Stoneham Youth Soccer Suggested that youth sports partner with the Town and other Youth Sports to raise money to fix fields.

6) Eric Rubin – Dog Park issues brought forward by the Stoneham Soccer Group. The Soccer Board felt that a Dog Park in the area behind the Stoneham Senior Center and above the Soccer Field would impact the Youth Soccer Association . They are concerned with the proximity to the fields. The OSR committee has been looking for an area for two years and felt that this would be a good location and be far enough away to not impact the Soccer program and we would put restrictions on parking to accommodate the Senior Center and the Soccer Teams. Kathy Richardson proposed that the Soccer Group walk the area with someone from the OSR in order to show where the area would be located. Steve Sylvester feels that a presentation to the Soccer group is in order to show the plan.

7) Steve Angelo- Recreation Director

Updates: Report received from Steve Angelo

Town Day: I will be hosting two spaces for Town Day with tons of programming literature, oversized basketball competition and tons of lawn games. I will also be selling Stoneham Rec t-shirts. During the day, I will be participating in the CDC dunk tank from 11:50am-12:15pm. If anyone from the committee is planning on attending Town Day and willing to help man the Stoneham Rec table during this time, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to Stev McDonough for popping in the office earlier this week to offer to help out already.

Permit Fees: A proposal has been finalized from the Stoneham Rec Dept for the Town Administrator to adjust the permit fees which would mirror the recommendation from the committee, with a tiered permitting process. Once approved from the TA, all youth organizations and outside groups will be notified.

Rec Field House: With the adjustments to the management structure for the facility and having the facility under the control of the recreation department, it is projected an additional \$2,000 in permit and bathroom rentals. All utilities for the facility are covered with reallocations of funds within the operating budget established in FY17. Atty Galvin has also cleared the use of the facility for birthday parties and certain social events which we will begin offering this fall.

Programs: we are offering 21 programs in the early part of this fall, compared to 8 at the same time last year. Intro to Golf at the Oaks has already sold out for fall session 1. Therese was extremely generous to donate over 200 golf balls to the program. The relationship between the recreation department, Stoneham AD and superintendent continues to strengthen and develop. All request for gym/field space thus far this fall has been accommodated. The continued push of stoneham rec programs through email and social media by committee members is very much appreciated. I am looking forward to developing some after school programs with the superintendent to help bolster our winter programming from last year.

Lay down Zoning article: I 100% support the article to open up the possibility to use town owned fields for potential lay down areas, providing that the recreation department is involved with all planning and negotiations for field use. The use of mitigation money could do wonders for revitalizing certain facilities in town but internal usage and lost permitting opportunities need to be considered before taking fields offline for extended periods of time.

Recommendations for the Recreation Department has been finalized and is waiting for approval from Tom Younger (TA). Then they will be notifying the Youth Organizations and outside groups.

Steve Angelo will be discussing the handling of field maintenance and what that agreement will look like going forward. We need to improve our fields to mirror our surrounding neighbors.

Arena Sponsorship

Follow up is needed for sponsor signs currently at the Arena, they have not received bills for the current period. There are many slots open for additional ads.

Potential for more signage and sponsorships to bring in revenues.

Town Meeting prep, Town Accountant should present how the arena repairs will be paid for???

ARENA PRICING SUB COMMITTEE

Meeting date 9/19/17

In Attendance:

- Anthony Wilson
- Don Piatt
- Tom Younger
- Louis Chiulli
- Reps from Committees: Open Space/Rec, Finance, Capital

No savings for area repair

There used to be an "enterprise fund" with savings for future repairs but it was scrapped and put into the town fund (just like all profits from the Arena). 100% of the repair capital will be new (bond).

Cost

- There are a few routes when issuing a bond (high interest up front means less interest overall and 130k+ savings, etc).
- The interest rate may be 5% instead of 3 or 4 (because it is a profit earning entity) - some wiggle room and ability to possibly portion this rate out.
- The basic breakdown is that on average, the area sees a net \$62k profit (after salaries, repairs/expenses, etc). The bond will require approx \$118k annually. With the increase of rates, the profit will rise to an estimated \$117k annually.
- While the cost for the bond is covered through increased rates and the current profit, it should be noted that the arena profit has since been sent directly to the town fund and will now go directly to the bond (IE 62k less a year going into the town fund). There are also town debts that are ending in the next couple years, finance/capital teams are aware of this shuffle.
- The ice rates will continue to go up after next year along with expenses (not added into numbers because it is more speculative and less based on averages of actual metrics)

Part-Time v. full time

Louis said one of his big problems is not having enough staff for events. I didn't question the possibility of eliminating the majority of his part-time work for a new full-time staff member (since he says he needs one) because he discussed in detail how he constantly needs 2-3 part-time staff members at a time helping during events and it's just not possible to do with less (which is he always short on people).

Concessions

This is costly and doesn't cover all events. Louis is interested in having the booster club take over. (would save money)

Additional Income

- Briefly discussed Ads (Louis doesn't have time to revive this effort)
 - this could essentially be its own group (networking, admin work needed)
- Sponsor/sign - briefly discussed. I said I would put together what Aldo has worked on (Aldo I'll reach out to you)

Energy savings

- LED lights (the majority of the arena has LED lights already)
- Solar (Louis is looking into Solar options)
- New appliances (the replacements will generate cost savings)
- Louis is interested in turning off the new cooling appliances for a few hours at night - this will add up to 50+ hours a month of savings
- Less melt time with new system (melt and rebuilt for only 2 weeks every other year)
- Short discussion to look into green community options: rebates/national funds for going green (to research)

NEXT MEETING

There are plans to meet one more time as a group

- Creation of a simple 1-sheet for the public
- Request specific details needed from Louis