

Meeting Minutes: Draft

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Ted Tocci called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Ted Tocci (Acting Chair), Pam Fitzgerald, Peter Robart, Larry Smith, Lyn Stan (Vice Chair) and Roger Venden (Treasurer). Non Commission members were also present: Marietta Garavaglia (volunteer secretary); Mark Lane, Gary Martin and Todd Santora (Hampton Falls' residents); and Nicole Enright, Ben Molnar and Paul Vogel (president) from Hampton Attack.

Prior Meeting Minutes: L. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 21st meeting as written; P. Robart seconded and the motion carried.

T. Tocci asked that the agenda order be revised to move Hampton Attack to the second item of business so their group was not detained. P. Robart made a motion to approve and P. Fitzgerald seconded; all in favor.

2. Hampton Attack: Paul Vogel provided background on their association with Governor Weare Field (GWF), noting some of the work that they had done with Jim Ziolkowski to maintain the quality of the fields. He thought the current fee schedule was fair, but exceeded their budgeted amount based on last year's expense; he asked that the fee be set at \$2,500 for this season. Peter Robart made a motion to grant this request and Larry Smith seconded; all in favor. Paul reported that they submitted their application in July and that they typically used the fields on Saturday and Sunday; he also asked that the fields be mowed twice a week which would cost the Town an additional \$150 per mowing (\$1,500 total for a 10 week season). Given the fact that weather conditions may slow the growth of grass, Peter made a motion that (if the funds exist) we begin the double mowing September 1st and continue for a minimum of 6 weeks; Larry Smith seconded and the vote was 5 in favor, 1 opposed. The motion carried.

Larry asked if the goals can be relocated to preserve the grass areas. Paul responded that the primary concern was safety for the kids, but that the coaches are instructed to move away from wet spots. Ted Tocci advised Paul to do whatever safety concerns warrant. With regard to Field Safe, Paul said every coach sends his background information to the State; the NH Soccer Association utilizes this process which is good for 2 years. Paul said their insurance is a blanket liability through the State; Ted will review with Lori Ruest to make sure the Town is protected.

3. Financial Report: Roger Venden reported that there is \$21,690 in the P & R Budget with expenditures of \$13,487.53 and an unencumbered balance of \$8,202.47; the balance in the other funds combined is \$21,037.69. Roger has authority to approve any expenses or deposits of \$500 or less; he asked for approval to authorize payment of \$1,000 for turf application (fertilizer & weed killer) for GWF on 7/22. Peter Robart made a motion to approve this expense and Larry Smith seconded; unanimous. Larry asked how often this is done; he will contact J. Ziolkowski of E.L.M. to discuss a treatment plan for the remainder of this year and next season. Peter will make sure that any financial emails he receives are redirected to Roger.

4. Part Time Person: Ted Tocci checked with numerous surrounding towns to see whether they employ part-time workers; he discovered that all of them operate solely with volunteers. Many of them ask for donations (Hampton Falls is able to request donations), some have sponsors and others have membership fees; Ted questioned whether we should consider membership dues.

Todd Santora stated that he was interested in volunteering and P. Fitzgerald also mentioned Kirstin Augusta as a possible volunteer (Ted will contact her). Todd said he is active in Town affairs (member of the Planning Board and CIP Committee) and that he feels the Town should provide more recreational services to kids and

adults; he contends that you need to take action if you want to institute change, hence, his interest in volunteering. Gary Martin—prospective volunteer—feels that recreation is a quality of life issue—everyone needs recreation and our options should extend beyond Weare Field and the summer concerts. Mark Lane—volunteer candidate—is familiar with HYA; he wants to see the Town more involved as a community and would like to facilitate this through the Rec Department. He also feels a new gym would offer many recreational opportunities for young and old. All three candidates will be submitting their applications to the Selectboard.

5. GWF: the fee schedule and application form are on file with the Town. T. Tocci reported that the proposed rules and regulations went to the attorney and he will review with Lori Ruest. Before these are approved by the Selectboard, a Public Meeting must be conducted and this will likely occur in September. Until then, the existing rules will prevail.

6. Concert Update: Lyn Stan reported that all the contracts—except for the Intro to Chicago—have been returned. She circulated a sample contract—based on Hampton’s model—and said she would check with them to see if any changes have been made since her version. Per P. Fitzgerald, attendance typically runs from 50 -75 concert goers, with the exception of the car show, which draws up to 200 people. L. Smith said we need to heighten the attraction—perhaps a children’s concert or a combined event; if not, he suggests putting the issue to the voters to see whether they want to continue at an approximate cost to the Town of \$5,000. The Commission agreed to schedule the concerts for the next season and consider ideas over the winter to boost attendance. Ted Tocci recommended that someone from the Commission introduce the band and make it known that the entertainment was provided through Parks & Rec; Lyn Stan said she had done this in the past and agreed to resume this introduction in the future. Ted said that we need to publicize the concerts more broadly (he sent a write-up to the Hampton Union but they failed to feature it in their printed paper) and proposed that we add \$2,000 to an advertising budget for next year. Ted also submitted an article for the Town Newsletter regarding changes to the Commission.

7. Summer Camp: T. Tocci said a final report will be delayed until September; he reported dropping by the camp several times and all seemed to be in good order. Stacey Bellen will have recommendations for further enhancements, and the Commission may consider a tent for rainy days or sun relief. L. Smith looked into background checks: the State conducts a paper check; the other option is through the Police Department, including fingerprints, which goes to the Federal system. Larry thinks the former is acceptable.

8. Town Common: Ted Tocci reported that the Commission overstepped its bounds by granting permission for the political rally on 8/12 and that he will be apologizing to the Selectboard on 8/20. L. Smith mentioned that Chief Dirsa wants a Selectmen’s Permit for all events, and the Commission agreed. Additionally, there is an RSA covering political rallies and signage.

M. Garavaglia—based on input from P. Fitzgerald—submitted an article to *Hampton Falls Living* calling for volunteers to help with the Common maintenance; it will appear in the September issue. She will also see if any of the Trustees from the Historical Society are willing to help.

L. Smith drafted a Bulletin Board policy which he reviewed with Lori Ruest; he read it to the members and P. Robart made a motion to approve it as written; P. Fitzgerald seconded and the vote was unanimous. T. Tocci will advise the Selectboard of this policy on 8/20.

9. CIP Requests: Ted Tocci reported that the Parks & Rec Commission has never submitted a Capital Improvement request (an expenditure of over \$3,000 for a non operating-budget item with an expected life of 5 or more years) and that he will be submitting this planning document asking that an annual Capital Reserve Fund of \$5,000 be established to finance new and future recreational programs. T. Santora thought parents with children in school would support investment in expanded recreational options for kids.

10. Focus Group Session: T. Tocci proposed that the group have a dedicated meeting to explore and vet programs that the Commission wants to prioritize. There was discussion as to whether we should include non-Commission residents, and R. Venden maintained that there was sufficient expertise within the group, particularly with the addition of three new younger members, to conduct this planning session internally. Once the Commission has established priorities, it will be opened for public discussion and review. G. Martin questioned whether we had developed a Vision or Mission Statement, which would drive our efforts and communicate our objectives to the community. **The date for this workshop is August 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.** M. Garavaglia was asked to facilitate.

11. Other Business: P. Robart reported that he will be stepping down from the Commission until next January or February and has turned over field management to L. Smith.

P. Fitzgerald said that the Castlebury Fair is scheduled for 9/13 and 9/14 and that we need to mark off the irrigation circles so they are not disturbed as vendors set up their tents.

12. Motion to Adjourn: P. Robart made a motion to adjourn at 9:18p.m. and R. Venden seconded; unanimous.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Monday, September 15st at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marietta Garavaglia
Volunteer Interim Secretary