

**Kingston, New Hampshire  
Fairgrounds Use Study Committee  
Meeting of 28 Feb 2024  
FINAL MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:034p by Laurie Szwed

**PRESENT:** DPW Director, Phil Coombs; Fire Chief, Graham Pellerin; Select Board Rep, Laurie Szwed; Conservation Committee Chair, Evy Nathan; Folly Brook Neighborhood Liaison Glen Milhomme; Linda Corson; Stacy Gray

Introductions were made to benefit members of the public.

Director Coombs and Selectwoman Szwed explained to the members of the public why the meetings were not previously open to the public. It was a misunderstanding with the Select Board about the rules for a Study group, which the Fairgrounds group was created as. Clarification was sought and received by NHMA. Moving forward, all meetings will be posted, and minutes taken. There is no requirement for televised meetings and the Fire Station does not have the capability. Public comment is also not required but because of the many questions from residents of the Folly Brook neighborhood, public comment will be held at the end to answer questions.

**DISCUSSION:**

Director Coombs presented the slide show for discussion by the committee members.

1. Add the Fairgrounds will be in compliance with Article 407: Noise Standards
2. Add that not all public land should be in conservation; the public should also have space to hold activities
3. Discussed current fee schedule. Do we use the \$2500 fee (same as the Plains)? There is a provision in the fee schedule for maintenance but it wouldn't cover clean up. Do we add a deposit for cleaning? If so, how much?
4. Possible Warrant Article for creation of a Revolving Fund to manage revenue from the Fairgrounds.
5. Selectwoman Szwed read the list of possible activities that have been discussed. These include community garden, model airplanes, RenFaire, farmers' market, Fests (brewfest), GEO caching, music events, fall festival, Blue grass festival, bonfire, fireworks, boy scout jamboree, carnival, mini-bike show, car show, food truck festival, fireman's muster, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, ice castles, sledding hill.
6. Premise is that the event sponsor pays a fee to the town for use of the space and covers all costs associated with the event (porta-pottys, police / fire detail, etc).
  - a. Select Board or Committee member would be on site to monitor the event (town sponsored, as well)
  - b. Discussed the Facilities Use permit that outlines details of an event.
7. How would town events work?

- a. Appointed committee? Possibly the same group as the study group.
- b. Select Board is the executive sponsor.
- c. Maybe it falls under the Rec Dept for now. Could use their revolving fund until another was created.
- 8. Discussed handicap parking
- 9. Plan is to grade the land to make it smooth/flat and seed it.
- 10. No plan to add water or electric.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The following residents either asked questions or made comments. Paula Pelletier, Cindi McLaughlin, Karen Lovering, Bill Lovering, Kristen Schrempf

#### Questions asked:

- 1. Regarding Comeau field:
  - a. What will parking do to the field?
    - i. Composition of the soil is not a problem. There is no expectation of overuse of parking (once monthly, maybe?). Number of cars
  - b. Concerns of contamination to the community well which is right across the street from the gate
  - c. Rental fees for the field? It's underutilized.
    - i. There have been many problems in the past with teams trashing the field. This was stated from the Fire Chief, DPW Director and Folly Brook residents.
  - d. Egress of parking is right next to the playground.
    - i. A fence will be installed around the playground. It is already in the works as part of the playground rehab.
  - e. Will parking ruin the sprinklers?
    - i. The sprinkler system has been off for more than a year
- 2. Will the area be roped off at night?
  - a. Can't close the area to the playground and parking lot.
  - b. Can install a chain at the entrance to the 'path' to the large field

#### Comments/concerns raised:

- 1. Noise pollution with events - discussed the Noise ordinance
  - a. Music events seemed to be the major concern for noise
- 2. Drug Use in the parking lot exists. Concern is that with more visibility to the Fairgrounds, the drug use would increase.
  - a. Police have been called numerous times
- 3. Major concerns
  - a. Security - for the neighborhood and the location itself (stopping people from entering at night)
  - b. Safety - same
  - c. Trash - who picks it up? A heft deposit for the event would ensure the sponsor cleans up
  - d. Noise

- e. Light pollution for events that occur later in the day
- f. Environmental concerns - protection of the wetlands, the flora/fauna that currently live in the field.

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS:**

The next meeting will be used to finalize the slides. Public comments were helpful with content. When the slides are presented to the Select Board, it will also be a Public Hearing. That will be noticed on the Town's Website as well as the soon to launch official FB page.

Next Meeting: 20 Mar, 6:30p at Kingston Fire House

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22p