

TOWN OF HIGHGATE

Parks and Recreation DRAFT MINUTES April 7, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Liza Comiskey at 6:35 pm.

Present at meeting:

- **Parks and Recreation Board Members:** Liza Comiskey, Ty Choiniere, Danielle Pothier, Greg Farnham
- **Guests:** Shelly Laroche, Randy Connelly, Dean Fackler, John Patnode, Brian Spears, Tammy Rowell, Anna Yates, Lucas Tatro, David Beyor.

II. AGENDA

A. Public Comments

There are no public comments.

B. Treasurer's Report

No new or existing items to discuss.

C. Old Business

Motion made by Liza Comiskey to approve February 13th meeting minutes. Ty Choiniere seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Liza shared the options (See Table below) provided by the Franklin Grand Isle Tobacco Prevention Coalition to support smoke free parks and other public/municipal properties. Motion made by Ty Choiniere to approach Selectboard to add Recreation Area Signage only. Greg Farnham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Liza to get on the agenda for the next Selectboard meeting to present the smoke free signage proposal.

Park Policy Options

Steps	Tobacco Free Ordinance for All Municipal Recreation Areas	Recreation Area Signage Posting Only	Maintaining Current Policy (building long-term support for future changes)
<p>Awareness Raising (starting now and continuing on throughout the process with support from the FGI Tobacco Prevention Coalition)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase conversation on FB, Front Porch Forum, in the Messenger and other avenues about the dangers of SHS to the broader public. 2. Schedule a spring butt litter clean-up. Track how many butts are picked up and where in the park. Save butts in a large pickle jar for display and awareness raising. Submit a press release with the results. 3. Consider a way to raise awareness at Town Meeting – a table staffed with Rec Board folks and Amy? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase conversation on FB, Front Porch Forum, in the Messenger and other avenues about the dangers of SHS to the broader public. 2. Schedule a spring butt litter clean-up. Track how many butts are picked up and where in the park. Save butts in a large pickle jar for display and awareness raising. Submit a press release with the results. 3. Consider a way to raise awareness at Town Meeting – a table staffed with Rec Board folks and Amy? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase conversation on FB, Front Porch Forum, in the Messenger and other avenues about the dangers of SHS to the broader public. 2. Schedule a spring butt litter clean-up. Track how many butts are picked up and where in the park. Save butts in a large pickle jar for display and awareness-raising. Submit a press release with the results.
<p>Partners (starting now and continuing on throughout the process with support from the FGI Tobacco Prevention Coalition)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chat with partners who utilize recreation areas most or who are most impacted by the change (Little League, MAHA, Fire Fighters, etc.) to talk about Secondhand Smoke dangers (Surgeon General’s Report clearly states there 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chat with partners who utilize recreation areas most or who are most impacted by the change (Little League, MAHA, Fire Fighters, etc.) to talk about Secondhand Smoke dangers (Surgeon 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chat with partners who utilize recreation areas most or who are most impacted by the change (Little League, MAHA, Fire Fighters, etc.) to talk about Secondhand Smoke dangers (Surgeon

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	<p>is no safe level of exposure), that Highgate’s recreation areas are places for families to gather, recreate and enjoy their community, and inquire as to what their concerns might be.</p> <p>2. Find strong community champion(s) who will support the Park & Rec Board’s proposal</p>	<p>General’s Report clearly states there is no safe level of exposure), that Highgate’s recreation areas are places for families to gather, recreate and enjoy their community, and inquire as to what their concerns might be.</p> <p>2. Find strong community champion(s) who will support the Park & Rec Board’s proposal</p>	<p>General’s Report clearly states there is no safe level of exposure), that Highgate’s recreation areas are places for families to gather, recreate and enjoy their community, and inquire as to what their concerns might be.</p>
<p>Implementation: Concerns and Facts</p>	<p>1. Ordinances are clear, simple ways for a municipality to create safe spaces for community use, especially among families with young children, who are most at risk for exposure to secondhand smoke.</p> <p>2. In Franklin County, there are 3 other communities with SF Outdoor Area ordinances (Enosburg Falls, St. Albans City and Georgia). Swanton decided only to post signage.</p> <p>3. All school properties are</p>	<p>1. Posting signage does reduce tobacco use and litter, however, are easier to ignore and does not show the municipality’s strong statement in creating healthy spaces for its community. Signage-only efforts are not enforceable.</p> <p>2. In Franklin County, there are 3 other communities with SF Outdoor Area ordinances (Enosburg Falls, St. Albans City and Georgia).</p>	

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	<p>currently tobacco free at all times by everyone (Act 135)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. There is no legal right to smoke.5. This is not anti-tobacco user, it is a protection from the secondhand smoke and litter associated with tobacco use. Tobacco users are welcomed and encouraged to utilize the facilities too!6. Enforcement should be 90% about communication of the policy – “You may not be aware, but this is a tobacco-free space. If you need to use tobacco, please step out for a few minutes and return when you’re done. Thank you.” Tickets should only be used as a last resort.7. Good signage, especially enhanced signage like sandwich boards, is usually sufficient to reduce tobacco use in these areas.	<p>Swanton decided only to post signage.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. All school properties are currently tobacco free at all times by everyone (Act 135)4. There is no legal right to smoke.	
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Parks and Recreation would also like to add mileage signage to the walking path, as well as applying gravel and placing dog “pooper scooper” bags along path to promote

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a clean and more inviting recreation trail. However, need to meet with Tom Racine to discuss the process utilizing funds in the Parks and Recreation budget. Liza to contact Tom and invite him to the next meeting.

D. New Business

Little league committee members present to discuss "Pitch, Hit & Run" event planned for April 25th from 9 am to 3 pm. Committee is looking for 4 volunteers per station (Pitch, hit, run, registration, food, and tents/grills) for each 2 hour block. Coaches were assigned a 2 hour block and need to find volunteers to fill that block of time. The Parks and Recreation Board will be running the registration table. Coaches/members were asked to find sponsors (current Sponsors include Comcast and Desorcie's), businesses to donate food (chips, hot dogs, soda) and items for drawing/raffle. Money raised by this fundraiser will go to support Little League (equipment, field maintenance, etc.). Coaches to email Greg Farnham the names of volunteers for each station and time slot that they were assigned. Next Little League Committee meeting is set for April 20th at 6:00 pm at the Highgate Library to discuss any remaining details for the event.

Next Parks and Recreation meeting scheduled for May 5th at 6:00 pm.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ty Choiniere to adjourn the meeting. Greg Farnham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously at 8:00 pm.

Minutes typed and submitted by Danielle Pothier

Minutes approved by:

Date