

## Selectboard & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes Aug 24th, 2020 @ 6:30pm – Highgate Sports Arena

### Selectboard Members present:

Kyle Lothian, Richard Flint, Sharon Bousquet

### Recreation Commission Members present:

Brian Spears, Ty Choiniere, Ryan Maskell, Karen Gagne Fortin

### Members of the public present:

Lucas and Krisy Tatro

Joel and Rachel Jarvis

Paul and Megan Reynolds

Josh and Jaime Berard

Randy and Amanda Connolly

Joe Severy

Mark and Bonnie Moulton

Brian, Tammy and Megan Rowell

Jean Gagne

Josh and Ashley LaRocque

Chris and Anna Yates

Chris Shepard

Highgate School Principal, Yeshua Pastina

Meeting called to order late - 6:50pm (Sharon was late due to previous appt)

Sharon began by asking the Rec Board to explain their decision concerning the use of the Rec fields. Ty began by saying that he felt this was being blown out of proportion and maybe he had been abrupt in his email but the Rec Board had asked the Rec Director to explain the situation with the school usage of the Rec fields this Fall. Brian further pointed out that the Rec Board had asked for testing of the soils by Boucher Family LLC. Boucher had given the Rec Board a suggestion for correcting the soils and when that should be done. Ryan explained that the Rec Board made a decision to upgrade the fields with \$5,000.00 but that upgrading the fields would mean that the children could not be using the fields this fall. Since the decision to have school and have afternoon soccer for the kids was so late this summer due to COVID, the Rec Board felt that this would be the perfect time to do this project.

Questions began coming from a contingency from Highgate Little League:

Why are you denying our children?

I thought the fields belonged to all of Highgate?

This use was never denied before - why now?

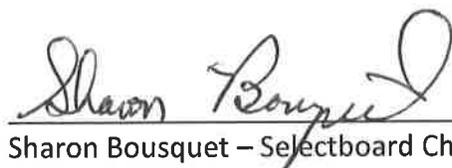
They do not do this in Swanton - why is Highgate doing this?  
What were the soil sample results?  
Can't we use a different field that is not treated?  
What harm are the kids going to do?

The Selectboard attempted to come to a peaceful and equitable solution, Kyle expressed the Selectboard's faith and support in the Rec Board. And it was made clear by both Boards that all of the children were our main concern. Sharon asked if Krisy or anyone at the school asked about using the fields this Fall. Krisy replied that they did not because no one had ever asked before. Sharon suggested that a little respect and courtesy would go a long way towards better communications. Ty admitted that there was a need for better communications; especially if a group was going to use the fields. The Rec Board would need a schedule of events so that other events could be scheduled. Both the Rec Board and the school representatives agreed to better communications, mutual respect, courtesy, and the use of the Rec fields for the School's Fall Soccer Programs.

There were complaints hurled by residents and non-residents that the Rec Board was not diverse enough; but the entire Rec Board responded by saying that all of their meetings are open to the public and that any member of the current Rec Board would be willing to step down if a member of the community was willing to step up to the task.

As audience members filed out there was a discussion of the Rec Director position. The Rec Board suggested that instead of a full-time director that they would prefer to have a full-time Buildings and Grounds Employee and a part-time Events Coordinator. Sharon agreed to get with Shelley to figure what we could offer for compensation. Motion by Kyle Lothian to go forward with hiring a Buildings and Grounds employee right away. The motion was seconded by Richard Flint – **APPROVED**.

Motion by Richard Flint to adjourn the meeting @ 8:48pm. The motion was seconded by Kyle Lothian – **APPROVED**.

  
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Sharon Bousquet – Selectboard Chair

9/17/20  
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Date