

**VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
Recreation Advisory Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting
Tuesday February 7th , 2006
7:00pm**

The Regular monthly meeting of the Village of New Minas Recreation Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 7:00 p.m..

In Attendance:

Chair Sherry Swanburg
Vice-Chair Les Sequeria
Village Commissioner Dale Pineo
Village Commission Chair Dave Chaulk
Member Maynard Stevens
Recreation Director Jennifer Coolen
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Swanburg called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – February 7, 2006

It was moved by D. Pineo, seconded by M. Stevens, that the Agenda for the Regular meeting of February 7, 2006 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 3, 2006

It was moved by L. Sequeria, seconded by D. Pineo, that the Minutes of the Regular meeting of January 3, 2006 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

(a) Tax Credit Program

J. Coolen explained that she had investigated the Tax Credit Program and advised that an amount of \$150 Tax Credit per child (with receipts) is available to parents who enroll their children in recreation programs. Jennifer stated that the Village's programs would all qualify, and this information has been passed along to parents whose children take part in our programs.

(b) Financial assistance programs

J. Coolen advised she has ordered a Canadian Subsidy Catalogue for reference, and offers it to anyone requiring information on grants/subsidies. The Office of Health Promotion also offers grants for recreational programs.

(c) Committee guidelines

J. Coolen referred to the Committee Guidelines, which she compiled for the Committee's approval. Item 6 should read that all members are included.

It was moved by D. Pineo, seconded by L. Sequeria, that the Recreation Advisory Committee Guidelines be adopted as amended. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Trail Development

M. Stevens presented a recommendation to the Committee for consideration of developing the rail bed as a trail (copy of Mr. Stevens' recommendation attached to original minutes). J. Coolen advised that she has researched this possibility, and stated that Glynn Bissix from Acadia University is part of a committee currently investigating a trail. Jennifer will contact Mr. Bissix as well as the Town of Kentville to determine the costs associated with their trail, and report back to this Committee.

M. Stevens was thanked for his submission to the Committee.

(b) Committee goals and objectives

J. Coolen suggested that the Committee consider goals and objectives for this Committee, pursuant to the Guidelines.

Chair Swanburg stated that each one could find a group he/she feels comfortable in, and propose a recreational activity for children. Each member will bring several goals and objectives to the next meeting.

Chair Swanburg spoke to the Committee members about the "Community Weight Loss Program" that she has discussed with Mayor Corkum of Kentville. She stated that Wolfville Mayor Stead is also interested in taking part in the program, and suggested perhaps New Minas might want to get involved. This led to discussion in the next item on the Agenda.

(c) Community contest – Let’s get moving

Chair Swanburg stated that pedometers have been donated by Coca Cola and these might be available for the “Community Weight Loss Program”. Jennifer Coolen stated that she and Chair Swanburg have discussed a Community Contest to get people moving. She said that the focus of this program is, not so much for weight loss, but to encourage people to get active. She noted that June is Recreation Month, and suggested this would be an excellent time to coordinate the Lets Get Moving program, and initiate the walking trails project. She asked the Committee members to give her any further information she could use for the contest.

(d) Volunteer Awards

Jennifer stated she feels that the Village of New Minas should step up in the Volunteerism in the community. She said the Village has been seen in a negative light in this area in the past several years, and we need to turn this around; a good place to start is with this yearly event. Jennifer advised that she is advertising the event, on the Village’s behalf, and will encourage the people she is in contact with to get on the bandwagon to nominate people from this community.

Discussion ensued regarding the Village Voice. Jennifer stated that staff have been discussing the possibility of our producing our own newsletter to save the Village money, yet continue to provide the ratepayers with village news. Now that the Village is producing its own water bills, a newsletter could be mailed out with these on a quarterly basis. The Committee members felt it would be worthy of following up and Jennifer will keep them advised.

(e) Jennifer Coolen’s monthly report

Jennifer provided a written report (attached to original minutes). Discussion ensued.

Jennifer stated that when she received a copy of the Village Commission Agenda, she noticed that there was an item on their about tarping the Skateboard Park. Jennifer explained that Commissioner Swanburg had expressed concern at a Commission meeting that a small child might fall into the skateboard park and not be able to get out if there was a light snowfall. Jennifer investigated the suitability of placing a tarp over the Skateboard Park, and was advised against it for the following reasons:

- Rain water and melting snow would pool on a tarp, and this would create a much more hazardous situation
- Tarps would become brittle in extreme temperatures and if someone accidentally fell through and became trapped under the tarp, a much more hazardous situation would arise
- The up-hill design of the park is such that there is no mistaking that the park is there, as opposed to a ground-level structure.

- A cover over the park that would be durable and strong enough to prevent anyone from falling through would be cost-prohibitive.
- The youth have used the park a good part of the winter because of the weather conditions. Tarping would prevent this use.

Chair Swanburg expressed concern of the graffiti on the skateboard park. Jennifer Coolen stated that this is constantly being monitored. She said the only troublesome graffiti was quickly eradicated by the youth, and they use a special solution to clean. Jennifer passed along to the Committee that the youth involved in this project are not responsible for any graffiti. She said they wanted to make that clear to all concerned. They are very proud of this facility and work very hard to maintain it and would never deface the park.

Chair Swanburg stated that this is a grave concern of hers. She said this park is on the Village property; right on the busiest street in New Minas, and this type of vandalism is very disturbing to her.

It was moved by M. Stevens, seconded by D. Chaulk, the Director's report was approved as submitted. MOTION CARRIED

QUESTION PERIOD

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of L. Sequeria, the meeting adjourned.

S. Swanburg, Chair

T. Silver, Clerk Treasurer (recorder)