

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
October 4, 2021  
Public Hearing – Gravel Pad for Seasonal Ice Rink**

**Call to Order**

5:30 pm – Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order

**Present:** Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Fred McGarry and Cynthia McHugh, Selectmen.

**Absent:** Andrew Robertson, Chairman and Alden Dill, Selectman

Selectman McGarry:

“Notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing to obtain input regarding the proposed installation of a gravel pad at the Gazebo field for the purpose of putting in a seasonal ice rink. This hearing shall be held for the purpose of providing an opportunity for the public to offer comment on the proposed project. The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 5:30 pm. The hearing shall be held in the downstairs conference room of the George B. White Building, 8 Raymond Road, Deerfield, NH.”

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you, Fred.

We'll declare the hearing open. Anybody from the public that would like to speak?

Would you like to give an overview, Jeff?

Good evening. Jeff Shute, Parks and Rec commission member.

We went over this a couple weeks ago with you guys. I gave you a plan. Basically, what we're looking at doing is building the temporary seasonal ice rink at the Gazebo field.

Last year, we had it over at Hartford Brook and the maintenance of it was difficult with lack of water and getting there and we believe that being at the Gazebo area, it would be a lot more convenient for more people and we could possibly use the water from either the fire department or the highway shed.

What we need to do is get a level area which doesn't exist there so we're looking at creating an area roughly 100 by 100 feet. The rink we have is 44 by 88 so we basically need 50 by 100 for the rink with an overflow and we've also come into another rink that's 30 by 60ish that we could either set up separate, second next to it. We could add to this one. The rink is expandable but again, we'd be limited to the size of the flat area.

We found out last year, Hartford Brook that even a difference of an inch or two over 88 feet is a lot of water to level out the rink so that's why we really would like to get a level area.

The proposal, when I was here before was to strip the low mountain, do a gravel pad.

I did hear from Andy that he was concerned and supposedly people have talked to him about losing the green area there so another thought would be this fall we could strip it down, level it and then in the spring, we could put the loam back on it; reseed it and then we would have our grass back and we could build on the grass flat area in the future.

The key is to get a flat area and we can't do that without stripping and regrading so like I said, I would be in, I haven't really run this by the Commission. We meet Wednesday night but thinking about it and talking to some people in town, I think we can strip the loam that's there in the grass, put it aside for this season, put our rink on something substantial and flat and then come back in the spring. It'll be reseeded. It should be fine to build the rink back on in the fall of next year.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well said. Anybody from the town would like to speak?

Mr. Rhodes?

Mr. Rhodes: The only concern I've heard is that it becomes ...

Erroll Rhodes – Church Street:

The only concerns I've heard when I've heard this discussed is the idea that there'd be a rink, sort of situated permanently in the middle of the green area which ...

Mr. Shute: It's not permanent.

Mr. Rhodes: But nobody's seen any maps so, plans so that was the concern that I heard. No map. No plans had been seen and so people didn't sort of have an idea of how this would actually play out for the only green area that the town really has. You know that so I don't know how this addresses that.

I assume it does but I don't know how.

Mr. Shute: We take and we put it up on the following. It's temporary and we put it in a, put it up in November and take it down in April.

Mr. Rhodes: Better use of the land.

Mr. Shute: Multi, yes.

Mr. Rhodes: Thank you.

Selectwoman McHugh: And it doesn't kill the grass once you seed it. You said you'd put more seed there. Grass after.

Mr. Shute: When we put it on Hartford Brook, it didn't do any real damage there so, but my concern is if we tried to strip it, make it level this year, reseed it this year, it won't work.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Mr. Shute: It's too late. In the spring. So, I prefer to wait till spring. Reseed it. Hopefully we get to hydro seed it so it will catch really quick and it should be in good shape for Old Home Day in August and

Selectwoman McHugh: Would be only temporary.

Mr. Shute: Yes.

We wouldn't do this every year. It would be a flat green area that would we'd be using it every year but we wouldn't strip it, do that every year.

Selectwoman McHugh: Did you consider out here?

Mr. Shute: No.

Selectwoman McHugh: Oh

Mr. Shute: Oh, the basketball court?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes, over here.

Mr. Shute: No. I think I need a flat area and I don't think that's very flat.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Mr. Shute: Somebody did mention this weekend, I was talking to somebody at the fair and they said how about the rink, the new rink at the fair, their riding rink but again it's accessibility and water and you know we had to plow the parking lot at Hartford Brook to keep it open. We wouldn't have to plow anything over at the Gazebo. We could use it for, it's a multi-purpose space.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right but you just need to do this leveling before you can do anything and then go forward from there with the reseed in the spring.

Mr. Shute: Yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Once and as long as it takes, it's done. Next year just set up the rink, right?

Selectman McGarry: Yes, I like the idea of eliminating the gravel and putting, replacing the loam. I've heard some concerns as well with regard to eliminating the green space so I think it's a good change in plans, Jeff.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Anybody else from the town?

We do have one letter from Denny Greg supporting moving it but she would like to see basically what Jeff just said. Not have it be gravel.

That will be on file here.

If there is nothing else from the Board, I'll close the public hearing. Why don't we take it up next week and vote on it?

Selectman McGarry: Sure

Vice Chairman Pitman: Hopefully, we'll have a full board.

Thank you, Jeff.

Mr. Shute: Thank you.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That work all right for you for one week?

Mr. Shute: We're getting close to November. The sooner the better because I've got to get people lined up to do the work.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay.

Mr. Shute: I mean, if you want a full board, that's what you got to do so ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dianne L. Kimball, Recording Secretary  
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*