**New Hampshire Recreation & Parks Association**

**January 7, 2015 ~ Attitash ~ 5 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

Present: Herb Greene, Krystal Alpers, Rick Alpers, Chris Dillon, Kerry Horne, Andy Bohannon, Greg Bisson, Matt Casparius, Jim Hilton, Melissa Shaw, Derrick Wong, Dyana Martin, Wendy Werner, Janet Horvath, Tara Barker, Arene Berry, Stephanie Zubricki, Kelly Sareault, Craig Fraley, John Kohlmorgin, Christina Cruz, Aimee Gigandet, Scott Blewitt, Justin Martin, Paul Coats, Meghan Spaulding, Renee Sangermano, Eric Feldbaum, Tara Tower, Justin Chaffee, Peter Waugh, Donna Kuethe, Rick Desharnais, Kristen Ducharme, Mary Frances Manna, Char Young, David Gill, Jason Hanken, Jennifer Stover, Amber Ciarcia, Becky Merrow, Dan Sturgeon, Dan MacLean, Christine Collins, Jeff King, Leslie Dion

***Call to Order***

Andy Bohannon called the meeting to order at 5 pm with introductions.

Secretary’s Report: The December 12, 2014 minutes were reviewed. ***Herb Greene moved to accept the minutes. Greg Bisson seconded and the motion passed.***

Finance Report: Chris Dillon reports that we are doing well. As of 1/5/15 we have a balance of $13,408.90 in the checking. We have paid out $2,709.70 since 12/11/14 and deposited $2,653.30. We have CD’s totaling $23,645.75. ***Tara Tower moved to accept the Financial Report. Greg Bisson seconded and the motion passed.***

Fundraising: Andy reports that we have had multiple efforts recently to raise funds with the ski pass, BreatheNH pass, etc. Peter Waugh said some of the BreatheNH passes have been sold. Kerry said for each one that you sell you will receive an entry into a drawing for a prize. We started with 150 books and if we need more they will print them for us. If you use just the Storyland pass you will have paid for the book. You need to bring the entire book with you when you use them. There are over 100 venues in the book. Peter said if we are interested in getting books you can contact him at Ossipee Recreation. You sell them in your department and NHRPA will receive $2 per book.

Kerry reports that we have Attitash, Cranmore, Wildcat, & Bromley for ski tickets. Each ski area will bill us monthly for tickets used. If anyone wants these let Kerry know.

Membership Update: Andy reports that we have a report here – see report. We are doing well on membership. You can pay on-line with a credit card now which is helpful. Still working on commercial member renewals and we have created new lists of potential members. The Fisher Cats came on as a VIP member. Special Olympics NH will be coming on as well as a VIP member. He feels once we have a few of these we will see more people take advantage of that membership. Kerry said she sends us a bi-weekly update as members and the commercial members get a separate one.

Track & Field Update: Christine Collins reports that Hershey Track & Field are no longer doing this event. The committee had agreed that they wanted to see this continue in NH so they agreed to solicit sponsors. Dyana Martin & Christine met with LOCO Sports and they are going to give us $7,500 as a sponsor. We will do all new marketing and branding. They would like to see it called Granite State Track & Field sponsored by LOCO Sports & a Program of NHRPA. They are going to try to get a logo put together by next month. They will be tweaking some of the events a little. Rick said that now that we are not bound by Hershey they will be looking for input from participating communities to see what feedback they may have to offer. The Regional meets are July 7th – one in Lebanon and not sure on the other site yet. The State Meet will be July 17th in Pelham from 4-8 pm. This gives them two weeks between the Regional & State meets. They are looking for help with the committee as there are only six of them at this point. Tara asked if they have looked into the financial piece of this regarding the checking account. Andy reports that they have met on this and it is resolved. They need to make sure that the name is not in use before they set it up.

Melissa asked if there would be a way to make a regional meet closer to the North Country or to have access to campsites for overnights if you are coming from a distance.

Greg Bisson runs a 6-8 week program and then they have their own competition to narrow down how many kids are sent on to the next level. Donna said they had 46 kids in their program and only five signed up for the next level with only two actually showing up. The benefit of doing this on the local level is that it gives the kids the opportunity to participate even if they do not want to go on.

Christine said it is nice if you do a t-shirt for your team. The Run, Jump, Throw that Hershey is now offering may be a component. We do not have enough info from them at this time. This could be done in individual communities on their own.

***President’s Report***

Spring Meeting Schedule: Andy reports they have been working on this. The meeting format has changed this year so that there are Executive Board meetings every other month and then program meetings on the off months. They have been working with Bob Barcelona at UNH to have them host a workshop, ‘Trends & Issues in Youth Sports’. This is a great opportunity for young professionals that will be leading a volunteer based sports program. Some communities are facing the challenges of having privatized sports programs coming in and taking over. This will be held on March 6th in Concord from 9:30 – 12:30. The session will be 9:30-12 with networking and lunch at noon. In April there will be an Executive meeting and in May they will be having something summer oriented with LGC.

NH Fisher Cats Game: We have scheduled to go to the Fisher Cats game on May 13th at 10:35 am. Andy said that they became a VIP member and we now have the opportunity to have a suite at a game. They have chosen the May 13th date tentatively. Craig suggests that they speak to them about doing the food as snacks. They have usually fed you two hours prior to the game and it is a lunch menu. Tara asked if we can try to get in early so that they can meet on the State Conference planning.. Tara Barker said that this date is a Primex training for some members.

State Conference: Tara said this will be on October 14, 2015. They will start their speaker selection process in May.

Other: Bob Barcelona of UNH asked us to post internship opportunities for their students on the UNH site. Peter said that he has had three interns from PSU and it has worked out well. He has a contact at PSU if we want it. Colby Sawyer and White Mountain Community College also have opportunities.

Kerry asked us to send her any newsletter items by January 12th. She said if we are a current member and are not receiving her updates let her know.

Executive Board Meeting: This will be 2/5/15 at DRED at 9:30 am. If you have a committee reports to send in please do so.

Donna Kuethe reports that Operation Rec Relief is partnered with Save the Children and GP Red and NFSPR. Through Save the Children they have gotten an emergency preparedness kit. She will send further info.

Aimee said that the State Conference has picked up serious momentum in the past few years. If people have not attended in the past they should consider attending. She said that this is also when we recognize State Award winners. This is a great way to get recognition within your community for a program or activity that you have done. This is also where the FISH winners are announced and the winner will receive $1,000 towards professional development. FISH is ‘Forward in Self Help’ and can be done on the website. You receive credit for different activities that you do and for committees you serve on.

Peter said he has won and it has allowed him to go to Nationals. He has won two years in a row. He had never been able to attend Nationals before and it was well worth it.

Tara Barker reports that Scott’s Pitch, Hit & Run competition will be May 17th for the program in Manchester. She will have more info soon. You must enter your competition scores on-line by the deadline. Tara could use help on this event as well.

Andy said that there are plenty of opportunities to get involved in NHRPA and it is rewarding to do so. He thanked all the committee members and Aimee for her entertainment last night. NH will be hosting this conference next year.

***Adjournment***

Herb Greene moved to adjourn at 5:52 pm. Greg Bisson seconded and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Dion, Secretary