

## January 12, 2004

Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m. noting there was a quorum present and Ray Reich, Lou Magnoli and Tim Cook have been sworn in to their re-appointed positions.

**Present:** Sheila Anson, C. J. Kersten, Lisa Easter, Joan Gauthey, Holly Haas, Joe Fredlund, Lou Magnoli, Ray Reich, Tim Cook, Mary Anne Greene (secretary) and Dick Sears (First Selectman).

**Minutes: Motion:** To accept the minutes of the December 8, 2003 meeting as presented by Lou Magnoli, seconded by Joan Gauthey and unanimously approved.

### **I. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. Beach and Boat Launch:** Ray Reich reported that First Selectman Dick Sears, Nick Solley, and Doug Hamilton have recently met and the Lake Waramaug Association has hired an architect and engineer to study the boat launch and beach area. David Leff of the DOT has written a letter requesting additional information on expanding the hours of the boat launch and a sketch of what we want to do. Ray reported that the Board of Selectmen has expressed their desire to complete negotiations with the State and to possibly construct a new facility. Ray will meet with the Selectmen to discuss the response to David Leff's letter which was sent to Senator Andrew Roraback. Sheila Anson reported she will be contacting Jessica Giordano to inquire if she wishes to continue as Beach Director. If not, it is possible that Jeff (her assistant for past several years) may be willing to step up.

**b. Riverwalk/Pavilion Project:** Sheila Anson reported that she will be attending the Village Improvement Society's meeting this week to request funds. Tim Cook and C.J. Kersten and Ray Reich will also attend. Dick Sears suggested that the Commission also contact the Watts Fund (c/o First Congregational Church) to request a donation. Other contacts have also been suggested that the Commission will follow up on. Tim Cook reported he has met with Janet Hill and all necessary Land Use applications have been completed. He will be attending the January Zoning meeting and hopefully by February or March all approvals will be in order. Letters need to be sent to all adjoining property owners. (Lisa will take care of these.) Discussion followed on hiring a clerk of the works (Frank Dolen and Ray Underwood were suggested for this position). It was also suggested to hire as many local contractors for this project as possible. A Building Committee will be formed consisting of Tim Cook and C. J. Kersten who will also speak with the Town's Building and Property Commission.

**c. Parent Council/Shepaug Youth Association:** No report.

**d. Basketball/Shepaug Basketball Association:** Joe Fredlund reported all is going well. Grades 5-8 (SBA) have started as well as the programs under the Rec. Department. It was noted that Shepaug High School teams are doing very well this year and it is felt this is due to the fact that many of the players started in the Rec program as young children - thanks to Joe Fredlund and Chris Childs! The Shepaug Basketball Association meets regularly and is running well.

**e. 225th Anniversary of the Town:** Sheila Anson reported that the committee formed for this celebration has been formed and met twice. At present the major activities include a parade/picnic the end of August; a Talent Show in the fall and a New Year's Eve Dance. Dick Sears asked the commission to keep the celebration in mind throughout the year as our programs and events are scheduled and planned. The Commission is looking into obtaining a George Washington costume.

**f. After School Arts Program:** The benefit performance of Pilobolus this past weekend was a huge success - sold out. As the program has grown over the years and it's success has been noted, the commissioners discussed notifying JoAnne Torti (ASAP Director) that Washington's Park and Recreation Commission may terminate it's position as fiduciary for the program - feeling they are able

to succeed on their own at this point.

**g. Town Garage Property:** A study of the old Town Garage Property will be conducted (separate from the recently completed Plan of Development). Dick Sears encouraged the Commission to think and discuss their ideas for the best use of that area and let them be known to the Board of Selectmen. Private groups have also expressed interest in this area.

## **II. COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

**a. After School Arts and Crafts:** Kezia Hearn's last class was very successful with 10 participants. She will be doing a Valentine's Class starting February 5th.

**b. Tai Chi:** DeeCalvy will begin a class for adults on January 28th.

**c. After School Ski:** Lisa Easter reported that no one has been found to coordinate this program this winter. She is suggesting we do one trip to Mohawk a month with hopes of keeping the program alive and encouraging a parent to take it over.

**d. Yankees/Red Sox tickets:** Lisa reported she is not able to get group tickets for a Yankees/Red Sox game this year but can get them for Yankees vs. another team.

**e. Golf and Gamble:** This would be a new "trip" to one of CT's casinos. Joe Fredlund offered to speak with Fran Gollow.

**f. Family Skate:** This was held a couple of weeks ago at the Gunnery rink - reports of a good turnout. Lisa will write a note of thanks to Headmaster Susan Graham.

**g. Holiday in the Depot:** Lisa reported another successful year with this popular event. Businesses were pleased with the turnout, etc. It was decided that in planning for next year a "work crew" should be designated to stay after to help the Town's custodian, John Gueniat, and Lisa Easter and her family with clean up. Thanks to them for all they did!

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Easter Egg Hunt:** Lisa asked the Commission for their feeling on reinstituting this event. The last time it was held it was done on the same day as a fundraising breakfast at Legion Hall. The two events worked well together. It was decided to look into this further and to also contact the Devereux Glenhome School as they also hold a Hunt.

**b. "Coupon Night":** Lisa mentioned contacting someone she knows who saves a great deal of money by clipping coupons, applying for rebates, etc. and asking if she would do a "presentation".

**c. Little League:** Tim Cook reported that the winter meeting will take place soon to plan for the start of the season in the spring. A new backstop is needed for the Ted Alex Field and it was recommended that the commission meet with the Board of Finance as well as Region #12 regarding funding for this. Budget planning season for the Town is beginning.

## **IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Sheila Anson expressed the Commission's sympathy to the family and friends of Jean Averill who recently passed away. Jean was a great supporter of the Town and of the Parks and Rec programs. Also condolences to the family of "Washington Pizza Nick", Mo Van Moffaert's father, and Louis Forese. Sheila also asked that the minutes reflect thanks to the Washington Volunteer Fire Department who did an excellent job this past weekend saving the Fuchs home on Turner Road. Congratulations to Tim Cook who has been a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission for 25 years!!

**Officer Election: Motion:** To re-elect Sheila Anson, Chairman, Tim Cook and Joe Fredlund, Vice-Chairmen and C.J. Kersten, Treasurer by Holly Haas, seconded by Lou Magnoli and unanimously

approved.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Secretary