

May 10, 2004

Present: Chairman Sheila Anson, C. J. Kersten, Joe Fredlund, Joan Gauthey, Ray Reich, Lou Magnoli, Holly Haas, Tim Cook, Lisa Easter, Mary Anne Greene, clerk.

Visitor: William Worcester

Call to Order: Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.

Minutes: Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 12, 2004 meeting with the addition of: "Happy April Birthday to Holly Haas." By C. J. Kersten, seconded by Holly Haas and unanimously approved.

I. Visitor: William Worcester. Sheila welcomed Bill who came to the meeting to review plans for the pavilion project. He has recently come aboard to assist with the project - taking over for Reese Owens and Frank Dolen. Bill met with Dick Sears along with Joe Fredlund, Tim Cook and Frank Dolen to discuss what could possibly be done before the 225th Anniversary Celebration parade and picnic on August 28th. It had been decided to put the construction on "hold" until after this but the present plan is to do some modifications and "sprucing up" to the existing pavilion building if possible. Bill explained that the siding on the pavilion, painting and the addition of the cupola were all possible before August 28th. Bill is willing to coordinate contractors for these projects (using local people if at all possible who could also possibly work on the larger project). It was suggested that the Lions Club and the Fire Department be notified of our plans. C. J. Kersten offered to speak with officers of the Fire Department and Lou Magnoli offered to speak with Chip Wildman, President of Lions. The suggestion was made to approach the Village Improvement Society for funds for the cupola. Payment for these projects will come from the donations already received. Bill offered to speak with the Building Department and to attend land use meetings along with Tim Cook. The specs for the larger project can be completed within a month with a target date for fall for construction and completion. Bill presented the Commission with his proposal to complete working drawings for the project, consult with the Building Department, blueprinting and construction observation and consulting. His sum would not exceed \$4000. Appearances before Land Use Commissions would be additional. **Motion:** To accept the proposal of William Worcester, Architect, as presented. By C.J. Kersten, seconded by Joan Gauthey and unanimously approved.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Beach and Boat Launch: Ray Reich reported the boat launch is open. Andrew Roraback continues to work with the DEP regarding opening the boat launch to non-residents. First Selectman, Dick Sears, is also involved. Nothing new to report at this time. Lisa Easter reported that she had been contacted by Rumsey Hall School regarding holding swim lessons at the beach for the school's summer campers 2 mornings a week for 4-5 weeks. This was fine with the Commissioners present but suggested the Jessica Giordano, Beach Director, be contacted regarding this.

b. River Walk Pavilion Project: It was reported that the stone dust cover on the walk is thin in places and needs to be fixed. There is an infestation of bamboo (Japanese knotweed) in several areas. Garden Club member, Natalie Dyer, has researched this and found the best way to rid the area of the bamboo is to spray it, cut it, and cover the area with carpet and wood chips. The Garden Club has proposed that the Town (Parks and Rec) pay for the spraying and the Garden Club will do the rest of the work. This is a process approved by the DEP. Grassroots would be hired to do the spraying. **Motion:** To approve an amount not to exceed \$300 for walking path maintenance for the spraying of the bamboo by Grassroots (following an inquiry with the Town's regulations). By Joe Fredlund, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

c. Little League: No report.

d. Washington's 225th Anniversary Celebration: Sheila reported that she has attended meeting earlier this evening - plans moving along. Linda Spak spoke about 225th t-shirts at that meeting. Ray Reich will call and speak with her re: 4th of July t-shirts. Sheila said it was again brought up that perhaps Parks and Rec could organize "games" at the picnic following the parade on August 28th. The consensus of this commission is that there will probably be enough going on that organized games are not necessary. The possibility of Parks and Rec having a float in the parade was again discussed - a possibility ! Sheila reported that the children's "My Favorite Place in Washington" Art Show is scheduled for this Friday - May 14th. Thanks to C.J. Kersten for his help in picking up the display boards.

e. Fourth of July Fireworks: Ray Reich reported that donations are coming in. The rain date will be July 5th. He will be speaking with Trooper Steve Sordi regarding the police coverage. Port-a-potties and trash receptacles will be ordered. Everything moving along nicely. Tickets should be in this week.

III. COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Lisa Easter reported that:

a. After School Arts and Crafts has 9 children signed up for May.

b. Spring Swim is full and people have had to be turned away. The suggestion has been made that next year this be open to residents of Region #12 only.

c. Summer Brochure should be completed and in the mail soon. Will also be in the Town's website.

d. Summer Recreation Program has a good number of counselors lined up. Some of last year's are not returning which will keep the numbers down and will be in line with the budget figures. A hiring policy will be developed for next year which should incorporate the evaluation of counselors that is done by the Director of the program.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Roller: Joe Fredlund and Tim Cook reported on the excellent condition of the baseball fields (Thanks to the mowing by the Town Crew!) The idea of purchasing a "roller" was discussed - this would give the fields the "finished pattern look" **Motion:** To purchase a roller (after consulting with Roger Cannavaro, Road Foreman) for an amount not to exceed \$400 (to be taken out of Parks and Recreation Little League funds). By Tim Cook, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

b. Bamboo Infestation: See above notes under "River walk".

c. Line Dancing Lessons: Lisa reported that she has been approached by Robin Palmer to conduct line dancing lessons. As the Town Hall calendar is quite full with meetings scheduled, kickboxing, social events, etc. It was suggested that these could possibly be held in the gym at the Primary School or at the Legion Hall. The price would be \$20 a class. The commissioners were in agreement to try this as a program if a suitable space could be found.

d. Shepaug Basketball Association: Joe Fredlund reported that he has spoken with Paul Cullen, Region #12 Facilities Coordinator, regarding the replacement of hoops. Paul will get prices. Joe will be going off the SBA board and Jenine Michaud will be going on. Many thanks to Joe for his **MANY** years of service and dedication to the basketball program!!!

e. "Tot Lot" It has been reported to Joe Fredlund that the swings in the tot lot area by the baseball fields are extremely squeaky and that people walking their dogs should be reminded to bring along their "Pooper Scoopers".

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sheila reported that there was not much to report this evening that was not already covered. She will be getting the "thank you gifts" for Tara Cherniske and Mo VanMoffaert that were discussed at a previous meeting.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:35p.m. as there was no further business to discuss. By Lou Magnoli, seconded by Holly Haas and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk
