

March 14, 2011

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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

Guests: Denise Arturi, Jim Kelly, Sarah Lipinsky.

Call to Order:

Chairman Anson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the February 14, 2011 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.
By Tim Cook, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Fireworks:**

Ray Reich reported all is moving along well with preparations. An agreement has been reached with Atlas Fireworks Company; Flashback will again perform.

*** Beach/Boat Launch:**

First Selectman Mark Lyon spoke with Sheila Anson and it was agreed that Ray Reich who has been the Commissioner involved with the Town beach, would be the contact between the Town and the caretakers. The Commissioners also discussed working on a policy regarding the process/policy that should be involved in hiring caretakers and tenants should the vacancy arise. Lisa Easter explained that another boat inspector would need to be hired, as Hank Valley is not available to do all the hours. This position will be advertised as well as an assistant beach director or lifeguard.

*** River Walk Park:**

Gary Alex has begun work on the fields. One load of clay will be needed prior to the opening of baseball season and possibly another load later in the season.

*** Bowling Alley:**

Thank you to John Quist and Tim Cook for repairing the alleys in time for the Town of Washington vs. Town of Roxbury challenge on March 11, 2011!!

*** Budget:**

Several Commissioners met with the Board of Selectmen on March 3rd, reviewed budget figures for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. As a result of that meeting and further discussion among the Commissioners, adjustments were made resulting in a 2% decrease from the present budget. Motion: To accept the budget numbers as presented this evening for presentation to the Board of Selectmen. By Tim Cook, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

*** Capital Budget:**

Joe Fredlund will be in contact with Mark Showalter of the Buildings and Property Commission to schedule a time to meet with them regarding projects discussed several weeks ago.

Visitors:

*** Denise Arturi/Youth Work Initiative:**

Denise reported on a program that has started in Woodbury that provides scholarships for young people

in the community to work for the Town and/or organizations that need work to be done but may not have monies in the budget to get it completed. Denise felt a similar program might be beneficial to Washington and, in particular, to Judea Garden. She has spoken to First Selectman Mark Lyon mentioning other areas in Town that may benefit – Pavilion, River Walk, Tree Warden, etc.- who received the information favorably. Denise has also spoken with students at Shepaug (who also do community service hours at the Garden) and received favorable interest. Funds for the scholarships would be raised through donations from individuals and organizations. The number of “workers” would be determined by the amount of money that is raised. She is asking the Parks and Rec Commission for its support and to be the vehicle through which funds flow. The Commissioners agreed to discuss later in the meeting and get back to Denise.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Jim Kelly and Sarah Lipinsky/Multi-purpose turf field:**

Jim, Sarah and Tim Cook representing the Shepaug Sports and Recreation Foundation regarding the installation of a turf field in the Town of Washington that would accommodate soccer and field hockey and perhaps baseball/softball on a smaller scale. It would be available for “rent” by schools and organizations in and out of Town. The Foundation has begun conversations about sites for the field as well as fundraising. The two sites mentioned as possibly the best at this early stage of discussion are the field behind the Pavilion at the River Walk Park and Shepaug High School. Although River Walk appears ideal at first thought, the fact that lighting may not be allowed for night games is a con. At present, the Foundation is asking the Parks and Rec Commission, not for money, but for its support that the field is and would be an asset to the Town, feedback as to location, etc. and Perhaps, in the future, a vehicle through which grants could be applied for etc. The estimated cost would be \$2 million. The Commissioners voiced interest in the project – no action required at this time.

*** Youth Work Initiative:**

Motion:

To approve the request of Denise Arturi to support this Initiative for a one-year trial period.

By Lou Magnoli, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

*** VIS projects:**

Possible upcoming projects that could use support from the Village Improvement Society were discussed – another stainless steel table for the kitchen at the Pavilion, more tables for use at functions, bocce court, horseshoe pits.

*** Parks and Rec Commission Vacancies:**

Holly Haas has submitted her resignation and the Board of Selectmen will act on this at their meeting this week. The Commissioners asked that these minutes reflect deep appreciation and sincere gratitude to Holly for her 17 years :) of service and countless hours of volunteering for all the Commission sponsored events. Joan Gauthey, as noted last month, has requested she not be reappointed after completing her 18th year of service. Both will be “honored” at a mutually convenient date for them and the Commissioners. Suggestions were made for candidates to fill these vacancies and Sheila asked that this be discussed next month in order to recommend appointments to the Board of Selectmen.

*** April Meeting:**

Sheila has requested that the “Personnel Committee” of this Commission, of which Kathy Gollow is also a member, get together with Lisa Easter, Gary Alex and Cecilia Page to discuss any concerns, employment issues, etc. and report back at the April Meeting in an Executive Session that may be held at the end of that meeting.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported the following:

- * Swim Instructor Maureen VanMoffaert 20th year
 - Congratulations and sincere appreciation for a job well done!
- * Canoe Race
 - Peter Klemm approached Lisa and Sheila regarding re-instituting the annual canoe race on the Shepaug. Peter's thought would be that it could be a fundraiser for charity. As spring is quickly approaching and coordinating this event in a short period of time did not appear feasible, the Commissioners agreed that it may be too late to have happen this year. Lisa will notify Peter and thank him for his interest.
- * Computer Course
 - Bill Chin may be willing to offer computer classes but would like to do one-on-one as opposed to group lessons.
- * Shannon Strong-1)Personal Training group sessions:
6-week two-hour course for \$80 or \$15 per session. 2) Lumberjack Training for adults and young adults. Will discuss further next month.
- * Yankees Bus Trip-August 14th:
17 out of 50 tickets have been sold.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- * Happy Birthday Lou Magnoli - April 1st!

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 11, 2011 at 6:00p.m. (PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE!)

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk