

November 14, 2011

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

Present: Chairman Sheila Anson, Whitney Ryan, Ray Reich, C.J. Kersten, Joe Fredlund, Laura Eanes Martin, Tim Cook, Darren Dutcher. Coordinator Lisa Easter; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Call to Order:

Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m. noting there was a quorum present. Before opening the business of tonight's meeting, Sheila expressed remembrances of her Aunt Doris Welles who was Assistant Town Clerk and Town Clerk for the Town of Washington for over 40 years. She asked that her life be celebrated and that her countless service to the Town be remembered.

Minutes:

Motion:

To accept the minutes of the October 17, 2011 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission as submitted.

By Tim Cook, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Boat House Tenant Selection:

The deadline for submitted application for the Tenant/Caretaker position at the Town's beach house was today. Ray Reich reported that six applications had been received. The Selection Committee, made up of three Parks and Rec members – Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Whitney Ryan, one Buildings & Property Commission member – Nick Solley and one Selectman – to be determined, will meet on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to review the applications. Applicants to be interviewed will be chosen at this time and interviews scheduled for Monday, November 28th. The Selection Committee will present their recommendation to the Parks and Rec Commission at their December 5th meeting. If the Commission votes in favor of the selection, it will go to the Board of Selectmen for final approval at their December 8th meeting.

* Beach/Boat Launch:

Ray Reich reported that all is in good order at the Beach, Beach House and Boat Launch. Lisa Easter will contact the company that fertilizes the Town Hall lawn to do the Beach property.

* River Walk Park:

Lisa Easter reported that the bathrooms would be closed for the season on November 16th. There was discussion about delaying getting the clay for the playing fields until spring – some that had been washed away in Hurricane Irene has been recovered but more will be needed. C.J. Kersten will follow up with Gary Alex on this. Gary suggested the floors in the men's and ladies rooms and kitchen be painted prior to next season. He recommended a product called "Sun Deck" that should hold up to the wear and tear. All State Fire Systems has inspected the exhaust system; the walking path has been repaired although more stone will need to be added in the spring. Lisa will check with United Alarm System regarding checking the system and battery back up. Baseball and soccer seasons are over.

* Holiday In the Depot:

December 9th! Gunnery singers are lined up and Lisa will confirm with Gunnery just where they will be performing – strolling the Depot, in the horse drawn wagons? Rumsey singers will perform on the steps of the Town Hall and welcome Santa Claus. Lisa has met with Valerie Sedelnick of Washington

Supply and Mary Acton. Plans are being made to get more people into the local businesses – perhaps conducting raffles, etc. The Knights of Columbus will be selling raffle tickets at the Town Hall; the Washington Garden Club will have a table selling craft items; the Girl Scouts will be selling hot dogs and chili at the Senior Center and the Ladies Auxiliary will be selling cookies. Lisa Easter has contacted the Shepaug Drama Department regarding helping with a new set for “Santa” and elves – this may not happen this year – play this weekend, etc. The horse drawn wagons are reserved. Lisa had a sample of white lights for the tree in front of Town Hall – all Commissioners were in favor of them. Lisa will contact the Fire Department regarding help in stringing them. Lisa also reported she had spoken with Bill Pollock re: trimming the Town Hall tree – unfortunately due to the Storm Alfred his schedule has been too busy. He has agreed to do it prior to next year’s Holiday Season. The Washington Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will be asked to light the tree. Parks and Rec Commissioners will be available to distribute light necklaces, pencils, help with “traffic control”, etc.

*** Adult Basketball:**

Last year’s program had very few Washington residents participating; there has been no request to use the gym at Shepaug. Motion: To terminate the Adult Basketball Program sponsored by Washington’s Parks and Recreation Commission. By Ray Reich, seconded by Whitney Ryan and unanimously approved. Lisa will notify the school and John DeVoe, who coordinated the program, of the Commission’s decision.

*** Monthly Financial Report:**

The monthly report of income and expenses for the Commission’s various sponsored programs was distributed. Use of the balance in “miscellaneous” will be taken into consideration when working on next year’s budget figures.

COORDINATOR’S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported the following:

*** Bus Trips:**

Mohegan Sun Casino with Warren Rec is scheduled for Sunday, January 29, 2010 and will be open to Roxbury & Bridgewater residents as well. Cost is \$30. For more info contact the Rec Office. Red Sox vs. Tampa Bay Rays is scheduled for Sunday, May 27, 2010 at Fenway Park. Cost is TBA.

*** Safe Boating Class:**

held November 5, 2011 from 9-4. Twenty participants passed the course taught by Resident Trooper Steve Sordi. Another class may be held in the spring.

*** Washington-Gunnery Skate:**

Learn to Skate at the Gunnery and Hockey at Canterbury and Gunnery has been scheduled. Sign up information is available at the Rec Office.

*** Swim:**

ns to Mo VanMoffaert on her 20th year of conducting this program! Litchfield has a program called Swim & Gym on one Saturday a month. Lisa inquired if Washington would like to do a similar program. Following discussion, it was decided that Lisa would contact Mo to see if she would be interested in opening the pool one Saturday a month.

*** Woodbury Ski Area** has contacted Parks and Rec about the possibility of holding after school skiing or a “Washington Day” where tubing would be discounted. More information to follow.

*** 2012 Meeting Dates:**

Motion:

To approve the following dates for Parks and Rec Commission meetings for 2012: January 11,

February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 18, July 16, August-No meeting, September 10, October 15, November 19 and December 10.

By Tim Cook, seconded by Laura Martin and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

* 2012-2013 Budget:

Commissioners will meet at 6:00p.m. on January 11th prior to the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 to begin discussion of next year's budget.

* 4th of July:

Falls on a Wednesday in 2012 – there will be no rain date.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Sheila Anson reported the following:

* Meeting with new commissioners:

prior to C.J. Kersten's taking over as Chairman, Sheila would like to meet with Darren, Laura and Whitney to discuss their interests and what areas they would like to be involved in within the Commission.

* Storm Alfred:

Thank you to the countless volunteers, employees, and neighbors who reached out to other neighbors, etc. who helped during and after Storm Alfred –within the Town Hall's shelter and within the Town. There was discussion about the Commission's holding an event in January or February to bring everyone back together and to say thanks – potluck, bowling alley. Commissioners will discuss further at the next meeting.

* Congratulations to the Rotary/Town of Washington Volunteers of the Year: Steve Wadelton and Jim Brinton!

* Thank you to Jim Brinton and Nick Solley for their years of service to the Town as Selectmen!

* Congratulations to all who won in the recent election!

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: December 5, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk