

September 15, 2009

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

Present: Chairman Sheila Anson, Commissioners Ray Reich, C.J. Kersten, Joe Fredlund, Lou Magnoli, Holly Haas, Coordinator Lisa Easter, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Call to Order: Chairman Anson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Minutes:

* Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 20, 2009 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

By Holly Haas, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Beach and Boat Launch:**

Ray Reich reported that the beach house has been demolished. Construction will begin soon on the new house and will hopefully be completed within 2-3 months. Ruscoe/Sedito will do construction; Harry Wright will be doing electrical work. The bid for landscaping of the property will be awarded at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on September 17th. There was discussion as to the future tenant(s) of the house, the responsibilities associated with living there and the amount of rent collected by the Town. The Parks and Rec commissioners would like to be involved in discussions with the Board of Selectmen. Hank Vallely, current tenant of the house and Boat Launch Supervisor, has found alternative living arrangements and Ray has spoken to him about the discussions that will be taking place and has reviewed various issues with him. Appreciation was expressed for his hard work as well as to Michael Branson for filling in on busy beach days and when Hank was not able to be on duty. There are several days the end of September that need coverage.

*** River Walk Park:**

Also see New Business. Lisa Easter reported that the pop-up tent that Parks and Recreation had purchased is missing. She will make calls to several groups that rented the Pavilion prior to July 4th. Both Gunnery and Devereux are using the fields behind the pavilion and have worked out a schedule. Groundskeeper Gary Alex is doing an excellent job and numerous positive comments have been received. Sheila reported that there have been occasional alarm issues. Occasionally there is a request for the fee to be waived for the use of the Pavilion. Sheila asked that no decisions be made without discussion and consideration by the Commission.

*** Fireworks:**

Ray reported there is still a healthy balance in the fireworks account. The bill for police coverage has not yet been paid and this will amount to approximately \$6000 +/- . Ray asked the commissioners to begin thinking about next year's show, the amount to be spent on the fireworks, size of the program, music, should we have the sky divers again (would cost \$1500) etc. Sheila reported that the road race went very well thanks in part to the "automatic timer". Lisa suggested that when she orders the trophies for next year, she will not have the year put on them – this will be done on the plaque that is engraved after the race. This way the trophies could be used another year.

*** Morning Swim/Pool:**

Sheila reported that the pool did not close this summer as was reported earlier; however, it is presently closed and will hopefully be open in time for the Fall Swim program.

COORDINATORS'S REPORT: Lisa reported:

* End of Summer Season reports, etc. have mostly been done.

* Nick Gueniat will be working with her as part of a work-study program and for his Senior Project, which may be a bus trip/walking tour of Boston.

* Karate at Washington Montessori:

Lisa has been contacted by WMS that although they would prefer not to, they may have to start charging for the Karate classes that are held there. Lisa has worked out an arrangement that WMS will receive 5% of the program's income and Parks and Rec will receive 5%. This is agreeable.

* Fall Baseball:

Lisa has recently been notified that there are two 13-year-old fall teams. She mentioned it being "out of season" and asked for the commission's opinion, as previously it has not supported out of season sports. As Little League is no longer under Parks and Rec it was thought the commission could not take a stand. We do contribute financially for insurance etc. but this is for spring (?). It was recommended that all teams using the fields contact Lisa.

NEW BUSINESS: * River Walk Park 2010 Maintenance Items: Groundskeeper Gary Alex submitted the following list of items to be considered re: maintenance and upkeep at the Pavilion/Park for the 2010 season/budget: Discussion indicated in italics.

Pavilion Building:

1) Re-keying of doors. Will be done.

2) Installation of walkway in back of building to utility room and grill area. Gary will do with "pavers". Installation of light on back of building.

Motion: To contact electrician to install a motion sensor light on back of Pavilion.

By C.J. Kersten, seconded by Holly Haas and unanimously approved.

3) Add landscaping to above area to enhance the look of the building from the rear. Gary can design and install – will put in for next year's budget.

4) Fill cracks in asphalt surrounding the building. Cracks inside Pavilion should be addressed as well. Will speak with Kevin Smith, Highway Director.

Walking Path:

1) 5 cubic yards of stone dust for maintenance.

Ball Fields:

1) 3 cubic yards $\frac{3}{4}$ " process stone for Ted Alex Field dugouts.

2) 6 cubic yards of stone dust for Joe Martin Field dugouts and Ted Alex Field dugout aprons.

3) 11 loads of clay for Ted Alex, Joe Martin, Dick Ayer, Little field, new softball. Dick Ayer requires 3 loads of clay and should be done now.

Motion: To order 3 loads of clay for the Dick Ayer field as monies are available.

By Lou Magnoli, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

4) Order 1 3-row bleacher for Joe Martin, 1 3-row bleacher for little field and 2 5-row bleachers for Ted Alex. Capital budget item, Village Improvement?

5) Drop inlet area near dog waste can to alleviate flooding during rain. Talk to Kevin Smith, Highway Director.

6) 20 x 20 concrete pad to store clay for ball fields. Talk to Kevin – price. Field Upkeep monies? Placement?

Motion: To spend up to \$900 to do concrete pad.

By Joe Fredlund, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

7) Grind stump @ Ted Alex Memorial and replant tree. Talk with Kevin; perhaps do when other grinding is done.

8) Install 5-8 oak trees to enhance natural setting and allow for shade for users of the park. Talk to Garden Club?

Groundskeeper will paint kitchen and bathrooms this fall.

Miscellaneous:

1) Tennis Court cracks. Should be done before winter. Lisa will contact M&M. (Maintenance schedule has been adhered to.)

2) Rental checklist. Numerous items have been missing – renters would review a list of inventory prior to renting, and again after with groundskeeper. Deposit would be returned if all items, conditions, etc. accounted for. Lisa and Gary will work on this.

3) Master list of ALL ball games. Dates, which field, etc. Lisa will work on this with coaches and teams.

* Fireplace:

Discussion on pursuing the construction of the fireplace at the Pavilion took place. A proposal with an estimated cost of \$19,500 was submitted several months ago. This will be reviewed as well as asking Village Improvement for a possible donation, how much monies are available now in Parks & Rec accounts, etc.

* Thank You Notes:

have been received from Kenyon Clark for use of the Tennis Courts and from Friends of Shepaug Music for the Geri Gerst concert held at the Pavilion.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sheila Anson reported:

* Sympathy is extended to Charlotte Johnson and family on the death of her nephew; and to the family of Duncan Boyle, Region #12 electrician who was a "friend" to Parks and Recreation Commission.

* Happy Belated Birthday to Ray Reich.

* Congratulations to Ray Reich on his newest grandchild – daughter Megan and family are presently in Ethiopia adopting a baby girl.

* Happy 80th Birthday to Papa Joe!

* Happy 40th Birthday to C.J.!

* Get Well wishes to Teddy Alex!

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m., as there was no further business for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 19, 2009, 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk