

October 1, 2007

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

Visitors: Michael Gorra

Skateboarders

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the September 10, 2007 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission as submitted. By Holly Haas, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Michael Gorra** attended this evening meeting to update the Commission on the Youth Hockey Program begun last year. It was a very successful year and Family Skate brought in more than \$5000.00 for the Bunker Burr Fund, which helps reduce the costs for children and their families interested in participating in the program. Michael distributed a handout that outlines the program and its projections for the coming season. He asked the Commission to once again sponsor the Family Skate program, which allows it to fall under the Town's insurance. All other programs are sponsored by the Hockey Association. The Commission approved of this request unanimously.
- **Shemus Craft and his mom, Jeff Semenetz, Nic Carlson, Jake Anderson, and Ian Bowman and his dad** attended this evening's meeting to discuss their looking for a place to skateboard in the Depot area. They have found that using "private" property (i.e. business parking lots, sidewalks, etc.) and various Town and/or school areas are not allowed, safe or appropriate. They gave a very good presentation, explaining their needs and hopes. The Commission asked various questions, gave suggestions and advised the group that the final approval, should a place be found, would need to come from the Board of Selectmen. A possible suggestion made by the First Selectman and the Highway Director would be the paved area in front of the old town garage building on Titus Road. There was discussion of liability, posting of signs stating the Town would not be responsible for injuries, etc., rules, waivers, parental supervision, etc. Sheila suggested that if this spot were given the OK, that there be a trial period to assess how the program would work. Others have suggested the basketball court area behind the primary school. The Commission will discuss and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The Commissioners discussed this further later in the meeting and felt that there were certain risks involved and the Town Attorney should be consulted. They also felt that parental supervision should be mandatory.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **River Walk Park:**

1. Sheila Anson has received correspondence from John Meeker thanking the Commission for its response (letter from Lisa Easter) regarding the problem of dogs at the River Walk Park. He remains concerned about people not following the rules and hopes the commission will be diligent in finding a solution to the problem. The signboard is being put out stating the dogs must be leashed rule, etc.
2. Joan Gauthey and Susan Jahnke will be looking moir into a "dog park" and possible locations.

3. Larry Cable has been doing repairs that were needed in the bathrooms and is currently working on a list of projects needing to be done.
4. The storage shed is in its final design stage.
5. Harry Wyant will be doing the test holes and septic fields this fall.
6. Don Etherington, Fire Marshall, has inspected the stove, which should be used for heating only - need a sign to this effect.

- **Beach/Boat Launch:**

1. Sheila has received an email from Diane Dupuis thanking the Commission for the information regarding the costs of opening the beach earlier in the season and having longer hours. Lisa Easter prepared a spreadsheet outlining the additional costs that would be incurred to meet this request. Dick Sears, who stopped in at this meeting, reviewed the figures and advised the Commission they would need to speak to the Board of Finance as some of the extra expenses would be incurred in this fiscal year.
2. Ray Reich reported the contract for the boat launch is completed. Machines are on property for launch to be built in place. Dirk Sabin and Dave Wilson have been asked for ideas for the layout of the entire property i.e. fencing and paving that would not infringe on any of the grass or beach area. Mary Weber is looking into tasteful metal fencing and a redesigned building for kayaks and canoes.
 - **Tennis Courts:** The Board of Selectmen will extend an Invitation to Bid for resurfacing of the tennis courts at their meeting on October 4, 2007.
 - **Golf and Gamble:** Joe Fredlund reported that getting this event organized in time for Columbus Day Weekend was not enough time and they would try to do it in the spring.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Lisa Easter reported:

1. **Bus Trips:** RCMH Christmas Spectacular for November 10 has 20 people signed up, Wintuk for January 5 has 6.
2. **Summer Camps:** ACE Baseball report has been received. Lisa will be mailing a questionnaire to parents of children who participated in all summer camps to see if they would be interested in the possibility of an all day camp structure.
3. **Fall Brochure:** May or may not be due depending on what information makes it into the next issue of the Washington Times.
4. **Tennis Lessons:** Cancelled due to lack of sign ups. Will do again in the spring.
5. **Swim Lessons:** A six-week swim lessons started on September 21 - 17 children needed to be turned away because it had filled up so quickly. 86 children are registered in 3 classes. Family swim is immediately following the lessons 7:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday evenings until November 2nd.
6. **Holiday in the Depot:** December 14th.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Dick Sears encouraged the members of the Commission to visit the **Old Town Garage site** - clean up has begun.
2. **Tim Cook** will be retiring from the Basketball Board. A final report will be coming from someone else on the board.
3. **Justin Moore** has completed the visitor's dugout and will submit the bill for payment.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sheila Anson reported:

- 1. Speedy recovery to Sue Allen** following a biking accident resulting in multiple broken bones.
- 2. Speedy recovery to Teddy Alex** who is suffering from a broken arm.
- 3. Town Hall Gang** has received a post card from the Mountain Ghost and One Boot Duke.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m., as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene and Holly Haas

Clerk(s)