

March 13, 2006

Present: Chairman Sheila Anson, Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, C.J. Kersten, Holly Haas, Tim Cook, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Guests: Greg DeRosa, Steve Yorzinski, Mike Hill, Wayne Johnson, Don "Radar" Lundberg.

Call to Order: Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS TO C.J. AND TAMMY on the birth of Claire Elizabeth!

Minutes: Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 13, 2006 meeting. By Holly Haas, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

VISITORS:

- **Steve Yorzinski:** Steve came to the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding his Senior Project which is to hold a soccer clinic for elementary school (3rd-5th grade boys and girls) on April 22nd with a rain date of April 23rd. Chris Childs is his technical advisor and Jim Stinson his project advisor at Shepaug. He was requesting use of the field behind the pavilion. As the Gunnery also uses that field it was recommended that Steve contact their athletic advisor to determine availability and if the nets would be up, etc. The commissioners will discuss and advised him to call Lisa Easter next week.
- **Greg DeRosa:** Greg explained to the commissioners that he and several others are interested in forming a men's soccer team and joining the Amateur Soccer League of CT. He was inquiring if a Washington field could be used for practice and to establish a "home field". They would be willing to work around other schedules, etc. and would like to open a "pick up soccer" to the public. Joe Fredlund explained that the field is not regulation size. It was suggested that Greg contact Bridgewater as their field at their recreation area is larger. It was also recommended he contact someone in the Shepaug Soccer Association regarding using the lower field at Shepaug (call Lisa Easter for contact).
- **Mike Hill:** Mike came to report on his Senior Project (which he previously presented to this Commission). He has been working with Ray Reich regarding the making of signs listing the Shepaug baseball team's State and Berkshire League championships. It has been decided that rather than placing on the outfield fence, they will be hung on the back stop. Mike is working on raising the money (asking Rotary, baseball book ads, Village Improvement?). Mike is meeting with the sign man within the week and has a target date of the first home game which is April 30th. He will report again next month. Various suggestions were made regarding painting to reduce glare, butting on a sturdy backing, etc.
- **Don "Radar" Lundberg and Wayne Johnson:** Radar and Wayne came to discuss the Fire Department's Carnival which will be June 22nd through the 24th. They will be using the space for set up etc. from the 18th through the 25th. They will have port-a-potties for use by the public so as not to over use the new bathrooms - will work around any scheduled clinics, etc. The Commission recommended they work with Larry Cable, groundskeeper.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **River Walk Pavilion/Park:** Joe Fredlund reported that he will be meeting with Rich Bette who did the original plans and plantings this Wednesday to discuss the plantings at the entranceway of the Pavilion that the Washington Garden Club has generously offered to pay for. They will keep traffic, need for emergency vehicle access, etc. in mind. Ray Reich also asked if Mr. Bette

could look at the trees behind the dug out that appear to be diseased. The new Pavilion sign is up and looks great! The problem of skateboarding in the pavilion was brought up and the need for signage ASAP prohibiting this. Will check with Lisa Easter upon her return from vacation on this as she was looking into signs dealing with this, leashing of dogs, etc.

- **Beach and Boat Launch:** Ray Reich had nothing to report at this time. Hank Vallely is "gearing up" for the season.
- **Planning Commission/Depot Study:** Ray Reich has been contacted by Susan Payne, Chairman of the Greenways Committee, regarding having a liaison from the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the planning of walking trails, etc. Ray offered to do this. Tim Cook also told the Commission he has spoken with Janet Hill, Planning Commission secretary, about using the old town garage site for a field - even if temporarily - until more definite decisions are made regarding the use of this area. It was suggested that the Parks and Rec Commission speak with the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Commission further about this idea.
- **Basketball:** Tim Cook reported that the 7th and 8th grade Rec teams had their tournament this past weekend; the 5th and 6th grade teams - coached by Mike Alec - won their championship (congratulations!). Travel teams start their tournaments this coming weekend. The spaghetti supper raised \$1600.
- **Little League:** Tim Cook reported that this year there will be a uniting of the minor leagues as the three towns have not had enough signups to have their own teams. There will be an evaluation day this coming Saturday to determine player's abilities, make up of teams, etc. Tim also feels that spring soccer had been a cause of fewer girls signing up for the major league softball teams. There was discussion about putting "clay bricks" in the pitcher's mounds and batter's boxes on the Dick Ayer, Joe Martin and other little league fields. Would Larry Cable be able to do this? Tim will discuss with him.
- **Master Plan:** C.J. Kersten reported that Wyant and Company has estimated a cost of approximately \$1700 to increase the size of the septic system should a kitchen be installed at the new Pavilion. Tim Cook reported he has spoken with Janet Hill about what would need to be done as far as permits, etc. for lighting of the fields.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Tuesday Evening Yoga:** Jennifer Pote, who holds a yoga class on Saturday mornings at the Town Hall has offered to do a class on Tuesday's at 5:15p.m. The Commissioners saw no problem with this and it was suggested that Lisa Easter give a report of the various yoga classes held, how many attending, income generated from them, etc.
- **4th of July Fireworks:** Ray Reich reported that the shoot will cost the same as last year. This year's t-shirt artist has been lined up. There was discussion as to whether or not the VIP passes should be increased to \$125. Ray feels he would like to keep them at \$100 for at least one more year - also keep the general car passes at \$20. The large cost is the State police bill. Our Resident Trooper, Steve Sordi, feels very strongly about the number of officers that should be present. Ray will discuss this with Steve as well as the number of reserved handicapped parking spaces. The Commission would like to go back to having the handicapped spots in the front of the school and providing transportation-via golf carts-to the picnic area. The band Flashback will again provide musical entertainment and there will be no music during the shoot this year. Some people complain they cannot really hear the music and that it takes away from the fireworks. Holly Haas asked that this not be a "forever decision" as she feels some spectators

enjoy it.

- **Use of Pavilion Rental Form:** The subcommittee formed at last month's meeting has drafted a new form for rental of the Pavilion, outlining new fees, etc. A few minor changes were suggested. Ray Reich offered to do a final review. **Motion:** To accept the new Pavilion rental form, following Ray's review, and to begin using it as soon as it is ready. By Holly Haas, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.
- **Use of Bowling Alley Rules:** These were also reviewed and will be posted in the Bowling Alley area - they include such things as not using the land use meeting room, proper footwear, cleanup, etc. Lisa Easter will be asked to schedule the sanding of the lanes and to check the pool table cover. **Motion:** To accept the Bowling Alley Use guidelines, rules and regulations, as presented. By Holly Haas, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.
- **Budget Questions:** The Selectmen's office has requested clarification on some of the figures presented on the Parks and Rec Commission's requested budget for 2006-2007. The Commissioners felt this should be discussed with Lisa upon her return and they/she will get back to the Selectmen's office as soon as possible.
- **Personnel Committee:** Sheila Anson requested the Personnel Committee meet again - this will be scheduled.
- **Summer Concert Series:** First Selectman Dick Sears has asked about funds available for summer concerts - left over 225th Anniversary monies? New Year's Eve? Sheila suggested this be tabled to review figures and to discuss further with Dick.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Great article featuring our own Tim "Duke" Cook in the Litchfield County Times!

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

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, April 11th, New Preston Congregational Church. (*Please note change*).

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk