

November 13, 2006

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

Call to Order: Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m. noting there was a quorum.

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the October 2, 2006 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Joan Gauthey seconded by Holly Haas and unanimously approved.

VISITORS:

- **Larry Cable, Groundskeeper for River Walk and Pavilion** , attended this evening's meeting to report on this past season. He felt all went well and mentioned a few items needing attention - corner by shed gets muddy after rains, catch basin needed by Ted Alex field, electric switch in storage shed, painting dug-outs and repair of leak in Ted Alex dugout. Stone dust has been put on 1/2 of the walking track, storage shed doors have been replaced and new gates have been installed as have the cupolas. He explained that most of his hours are taken up with the actual maintenance and therefore "special projects" are usually done on rainy days. He also asked that the Highway Department be thanked for the assistance they have given him throughout the year. As far as "equipment wishes" he would like to have a top and windshield for the gator. There was discussion of trying to increase his hours next season from 18 to 24. Larry suggested the rental form be redone to include a section advising people what they should bring with them. His last day for the season will be Friday, November 17th and although he has a lot to keep him busy, Larry is hoping to catch a little time by the fire, petting the dog ! The Commission thanked Larry for his hard work.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **River Walk Park:** Please see above under "Visitors". Also Sheila Anson reported that she had been notified by First Selectman Dick Sears that the Watts Fund of the First Congregational Church has offered a \$10,000 matching grant to help provide a kitchen at the Pavilion. More discussion on this will be forthcoming. Joe Fredlund reported that Lee Levesque, Building & Property Manager, is looking into installing down spouts on the corner of the Pavilion by the telephone. **Motion:** To spend up to \$500 for the gutter/down spout installation on the Pavilion. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.
- **Beach/Boat Launch:** Ray Reich reported that there was an Inland Wetlands "walk-through" last week at the boat launch with members of LWA, the engineer, and Board of Selectmen. The Inland Wetlands meeting will be held at the end of the month. Dick Sears will submit the appropriate paperwork to the State of Connecticut for their \$100,000 once the Town approvals are in place. Ray also reported he will be holding a meeting regarding the Boathouse on 11/25/06 to discuss it's placement, what it will need to accommodate, funding for it's construction, etc. Sheila asked the commission to think about whether there should be a "Beach Commission" as there once had been (separate from the Parks and Rec Commission). Ray voiced his feeling that all should stay as is, especially until the boat launch project is completed. Other commissioners agreed.
- **Playgrounds:** Lisa Easter reported that the Playground Committee has met twice and developed plans they feel will fill the needs of the children at River Walk Park (Tot Lot), Nick Platt Field and the beach. These will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on

11/16/06 , requesting the Board to extend an Invitation to Bid for the equipment. After discussion it was decided to wait on putting any new equipment at the beach until the beach and boat launch areas have been renovated. **Motion:** To use the monies allotted for playground equipment at the beach on the River Walk Park Tot Lot. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by C. J. Kersten and unanimously approved. Once the bids are received, if it is determined that additional funds are needed than what is budgeted, discussion will need to take place with Selectmen, Board of Finance and/or with the Parks and Rec Commission to determine the best way to cover this.

- **Basketball:** Tim Cook reported that 7th and 8th grade teams have been picked and have started practicing. There may not be enough sign ups for the 5th and 6th grade girl's teams. Lisa is working on getting coaches for the younger teams. C. J. Kersten reported that Ben Woodruff will take over Adult Basketball. Thanks to C.J. for his many years of doing a FINE job with this program !
- **Holiday in the Depot:** Lisa reported all in order - Mari Acton of the Washington Business Association is handling the details for them. Parks and Rec is getting the horse and wagon, pencils, light necklaces, etc. Cindy Brissett needs to be contacted regarding taking pictures with Santa.
- **Bus Trip:** Lisa reported on 1/14/07, there will be a trip to the Westchester Dinner Theater to see "The Full Monty". Cost is \$90 per person.
- **Capital Budget/Budget:** Sheila asked the commissioners to begin thinking about projects that should be included in the next year's capital budget as well as the general fund budget expenses. (Basketball and tennis court resurfacing?)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sheila reported:

- Sara Fredlund's Senior Project will be on 11/25 - she is hoping to raise funds for a scoreboard for the Joan Gauthey Field Hockey field.
- Congratulations to AnnMarie (Reich) and Paul Lattanzi on the announcement of their expecting their first child in May! Coongratulations to Grandma and Grandpa Reich too!
- The West Point game trip was a huge success leaving town at 1:30p.m. and returning back home at 1:30a.m. !
- Congratulations to Kevin Smith who will be starting as the Town's new Highway Director next week.
- Congratulations to Jeff Gueniat and Tim Cook this year's Rotary Volunteers of the Year.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: December 11, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk