

January 10, 2005

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

Minutes: Motion: To accept the minutes of the December 6, 2004 meeting as presented. By Tim Cook, seconded by Holly Haas and unanimously approved.

I. OLD BUSINESS:

1. River Walk Pavilion Project: Sheila Anson reported she and Joe Fredlund attended the Village Improvement Society meeting last week to update them on the Commission's fund raising efforts, what was still needed etc. The VIS approved \$12,000 toward the project. Another unexpected \$5000 gift was received this week. Approximately \$11,000 is still needed to meet the estimated cost of construction/

2. Skating Rink: Sheila reported that the rink is assembled and has been flooded by the Fire Department. All that is needed now is a stretch of cold weather!

3. Basketball: Tim Cook reported the season is in full swing and all is going very well. The new baskets are up.

4. Holiday in the Depot: Despite another rainy year, the event was once again felt to be very successful. Dave Werkhoven and Papa Joe Martin lit the Christmas tree. There was some discussion about turning more of the organization and need for "workers" over to the Washington Business Association. This Commission will contact WBA in the near future to discuss.

5. 2005-2006 Budget: The Commissioners held a "work session" prior to this meeting to begin work on their budget figures for the next fiscal year. Numbers will be finalized prior to the next Parks and Rec meeting. If all are in favor, these numbers will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen.

II. COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Lisa Easter reported the family skate at the Gunnery on 12/30 was quite well attended and all seemed to have a good time. 64 children have registered for the Introduction and Clinic Basketball programs. Kezia Hearn has 6 children signed up for the next Arts and Crafts class - "Snow People Collage".

III. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Concert Series: Sheila reported that following the successful concert on the lawn of the Town Hall last summer (part of the 225th Anniversary celebration), the idea had been presented to hold a series of concerts this summer. There are some monies left in the 225th account that could be the start up money. The only cost would be the bands. Admission is free - bring your own picnic supper, etc. All the commissioners present this evening thought this would be a very good idea.

2. New Year's Eve: This past New Year's Eve Gala was a huge success and was enjoyed by nearly 250 townspeople. Linda Spak who chaired the event has expressed a willingness to do it again with the help of loyal volunteers! Discussion will follow on this but all seemed to feel a very good idea.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sheila congratulated Kate Fredlund for the coverage she received in the New Milford Times and Spectrum for her "perfect Basketball game"! Congratulations to Ray and Sue Reich - their daughter - Ann Marie - will be married on 12/31/2005. Bob Fray was remembered by the Commissioners this evening for this devotion to Shepaug athletics. Lou Magnoli summed up everyone's feelings by stating "Bob was small in stature but tall among us all!" Sheila thanked the Commissioners for their many hours of hard work this past year on many different activities and programs.

Next meeting:

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene
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