

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
November 4, 2019

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

Present: Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Joe Fredlund, Tim Cook, Ray Reich, Carrie Rowe. Coordinator Jeff Hammond; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Call to Order: Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the October 7, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

GUEST: Michael Gorra attended this evening's meeting to thanks the Parks and Recreation Commission for its past support and to ask if it would again co-sponsor the Family Skate program at the Gunnery rink by providing insurance. Michael explained that entry fees to the program, as well as donations, go to the Bunker Burr Fund which helps to defray costs of equipment and entry fees for the youth hockey program. This year, Michael and Michelle Gorra will be running the "Learn-to-Skate" program for 4-8 year olds. Registration fees for this program (\$75 one session; \$125 for two) also go to the Bunker Burr Fund. Michael requested that Parks and Rec consider providing insurance for this program as well. Jeff Hammond explained this would not be a problem as the insurance already in place for the Family Skate program would cover all programs for the year at the rink. All Commissioners were in agreement to support the program in this way.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Harvest Festival:** Jeff Hammond reported it was a Great success! Only problem was with the hay maze and the resulting cleanup of the maze. This will be discussed further for future Festivals. Jeff suggested that if there is a maze next year could use additional volunteers to help clean it up. Another volunteer would also be helpful for assisting with parking. Jeff placed the "donation jug" closer to the entrance which resulted in approximately \$270. There was general discussion about the fees vendors pay which helps defray the costs associated with signs, post cards, etc. Michael Gorra suggested asking area businesses to possibly underwrite certain aspects of the Festival.
- **Morning Swim:** This program has started up. New time: 5:00a.m.-7:15a.m. Swimmers need to be out of the building by 7:45a.m.
- **Beach/Boat:** Jeff reported that the ramp closed for the season on October 27th and the season went well and ran smoothly under the direction of Hank Vallely. Jesse Travers will begin work at the Beach painting the bathrooms, polishing stainless and replacing soap dispensers. An advertisement for the Beach House Tenant(s) and Beach Caretaker(s) will be placed in the near future.
- **Pavilion:** Water will most likely be turned off the end of the week.
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NEW BUSINESS:

- **Holiday in the Depot:** Friday, December 13, 2019. Plans going well. Washington Montessori will not be singing at the Town Hall this year. Washington Primary School students will be singing on the front steps. Jeff reminded commissioners that volunteers are needed to clear the front drive for Santa's arrival and to distribute glo sticks. It was agreed to ask for representatives from the Town's First Responders (Fire Department, Auxiliary and Ambulance) to light the Town Hall Christmas tree.
- **Activities/Events:** There was discussion about holding a "Fire and Ice Festival" with ice sculpting, fire pits, etc. instead of the Winter Festival that has occurred in the past that was dependent on snow. This will also be discussed further at upcoming meetings.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Jeff Hammond reported the following: Harvest Festival

This year's event was a great success! With 1050 tickets counted for the scarecrow voting, plus many more that didn't bother getting a ticket, it was our biggest Harvest Festival to date by a wide margin. Weather was certainly a big factor in bringing people out as well as folks staying longer. The Harvest Festival committee has decided, due to some feedback from festival goers, that the event will now be held annually on the Sunday of Columbus Day weekend. Next year it will be October 11th. Overall, the event went very smoothly. There are a couple of things that we need to work on for next year though. Primarily, volunteers. Extra volunteers are needed to help with parking as well as more monitors for the hay maze.

Pool Status

Starting on the Tuesday following Columbus Day, the pool was reopened to our morning swimmers. The process is pretty much the same but we have altered the timeframe a little bit. Swimming now starts at 5am and runs to 7:30am. The door is locked at 7:15am and no entry is allowed after that. Everyone must be exiting the school by 7:45am. Previously it was exit by 8am.

Beach/Boat Ramp

The boat ramp is officially closed for the season. Sunday, October 27th was the last day. Hank reports that there are still a few boats on the lake though, so we anticipate some calls to arrange for getting them off in the coming weeks. Jesse has begun cleaning up the bathrooms at the beach. The work being done includes some painting, cleaning up some stainless fixtures and replacing some soap dispensers.

Holiday in the Depot

This year's event will be on Friday, December 13th. Mostly business as usual. I am looking for commission members to help with making sure driveway is clear for Santa's arrival, handing out glow necklaces and taking turns monitoring the line for Santa. We also need to confirm who will be lighting the tree this year. On Wednesday I drove to Hatfield, MA to pick up our tree lights. The Town will now be responsible for lighting our own tree over the next couple years while the new tree is still

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:55p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk