

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**July 13, 2020**

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

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

**Guest:** Greg Kraft.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:36p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 8, 2020 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Ray Reich, seconded by Alice Demeo and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **River Walk Park:** The bathrooms in the Pavilion are now open as are the playing fields. Due to lack of use, weeds have taken hold in some areas of the fields. Jeff Hammond will contact Tim of Meadowbrook Landscaping to request another seasonal treatment. The new maintenance shed has been ordered. Jeff will attend the 7/22/2020 Inland Wetlands Commission meeting to address any concerns.
- **Beach/Boat Ramp:** Jeff Hammond and Sheila Anson met late this afternoon with Beach Director Jeff Cox and other beach employees regarding COVID-19 protocols. In order to control the number of people using the beach, the number allowed at any one time (presently 40) will be strictly adhered to. As larger numbers have been using the beach, particularly after closing at 5:00p.m., staff will now be on duty until 7:00p.m. There will be no lifeguard after 5:00p.m. Everything is running smoothly at the Boat Launch. Three toilets needed to be replaced at the Beach House.
- **Activities/Events: Morning Swim** re-opening is still questionable due to repairs and COVID-19 concerns. Jeff will be billing participants who have past balances and will also refund those who paid in advance and have not been able to utilize the program. There was a brief discussion of possibly offering swim lessons at the Town Beach next year. **ACE Baseball Camp** will be starting following strict protocols of distancing and sanitizing.
- **Virtual Programs:** Carrie Rowe suggested exploring the idea of offering programs virtually: i.e. 5K runs where participants send in their times; classes offered via zoom; links provided to programs offered in Town, etc. More discussion to follow.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Commission Opening:** Whit Ryan has submitted her formal letter of resignation from the Commission due to she and Fran's moving to Virginia. She recommended Greg Kraft be appointed to fill her vacancy. **Motion:** To recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Greg Kraft be appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission until 1/1/23. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.
- **September Concert:** Still pending.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Jeff Hammond submitted the following written report:

**Beach**

The beach has been open daily since June 20<sup>th</sup>. Overall, things have gone smoothly. A capacity of 40 has been established to allow for social distancing. 40 is a soft number allowing for a few more if a family of 4 happens to show up and there are already 39 people at the beach. So far, the beach has reached capacity twice and has had to temporarily close. While properly distanced, patrons do not need to wear masks but we are requiring them when using the restrooms. Beach staff is monitoring spacing on the grass area as well as sanitizing the picnic tables after use.

We had to unexpectedly replace 3 toilets in the public bathrooms. As a result of prolonged sitting due to the vacancy over the winter, the cartridges in the pressure bladders failed. Ralph is aware of what needs to be done going forward.

**River Walk Park**

Bathrooms and fields are now open. The pavilion is available to rent, but as discussed previously, the kitchen and extra tables and chairs are unavailable. There have been a few rentals of the area. Pilobolus will be holding its modified camp there the week of July 13<sup>th</sup>.

New maintenance shed is on order. Due to a backlog it is a minimum of 5 weeks out. I will be arranging with the highway department to prep the gravel pad.

**Summer Rec**

In lieu of camp income, I have been able to offer a couple counselors alternate income in the way of an "attendant" position at Town Hall. They are responsible for checking in scheduled visitors.

**Concerts**

With the July concert cancelled, I am hoping to still have the September concert. At this time, it is still up in the air depending on guidance from the State. With the recent rollback of the phase 3 reopening, I will be watching to see what will be allowable in September.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

- **Thank you to First Selectman Jim Brinton** for his guidance to and leadership of the Town of Washington through this COVID-19 pandemic!
- **Happy July Birthdays** to Joe Fredlund, Tim Cook and Mary Anne Greene.
- **Happy August Birthdays** to Ray Reich and Jeff Hammond.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:56p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Clerk

