

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**April 12, 2021**

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

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

**Call to Order:** C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 8, 2021 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Sheila Anson and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Pickleball:** Jeff Hammond has spoken with Kenyon Clark who has offered to install the lines for the Pickleball courts in the near future. The nets have been ordered and received and will be placed at the WPS tennis courts once the lines are installed. No clinics or camps are scheduled at the present time. Following discussion, it was decided that the Commission would supply four paddles and balls that can be reserved and picked up at the Town Hall and returned following use. They will be disinfected when returned.
- **Windscreens:** Matt Muszala has generously donated windscreens for the tennis courts. C.J. will get them and coordinate with groundskeeper Jesse Travers to have them installed.
- **Summer Outlook:** Jeff reported that Superintendent Megan Bennett has informed him that no part of the Shepaug campus can be utilized for the Summer Recreation program. This would also include use of the pool which means no summer swim team. What can be used is the gym at the Washington Primary School. However, there are other programs/activities that have also been approved for using part of the Primary School. This could result in our program being given only a days' notice that they may need to move to another part of the school. The amount of equipment and supplies that are used in a given day make moving extremely difficult. In addition, only 20 students will be allowed. As the majority of Commissioners want to see some type of summer program offered, there was lengthy discussion of possible scenarios. Jeff will be speaking with Camp Director Brian McCauley on Wednesday and present the various ideas. Ultimately it will be Brian's input that will be critical in making the decision. Jeff will inform the Commissioners of Brian's and his decision.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Community Block Party Concert:** The Washington Business Association will be going ahead with plans for the Community Block Party on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Parks and Rec will be responsible for securing the band. The Commissioners unanimously approved of Jeff asking the Wool Hats to return.
- **Bee Concern at River Walk:** There have been numerous sightings of bees along sandy areas of the River Walk. It has been determined that they are great pollinators and will cause no harm unless aggressively agitated. They will be gone by the end of April. Jeff has posted signs along the walk with this information.

- **Election of Officers: Motion:** To maintain the current officers: Chairman C.J. Kersten, Co-Chairmen Joe Fredlund and Sheila Anson. By Tim Cook, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Jeff Hammond reported the following:

What's Happening?

**Swim Lessons:**

Registration forms will be published soon. I am waiting on Kelly to review and confirm the form.

**Concerts:**

I have been informed that the Community Block Party is a go and is set for Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. At this time, I am looking for input for a band to have a concert from 6-8pm that evening.

**Summer Rec:**

We continue to face a few hurdles in trying to plan camp. Reg. 12 has denied use of Shepaug this summer because of scheduled construction. This means that we cannot offer summer swim team. I have been discussing our options at WPS with superintendent Megan Bennett. Because of summer school and other activities, use of WPS will be limited and with a schedule/structure that I'm still figuring out the details on. Per State guidelines, the school is limiting camp size to 20. I have been in communication with my camp director and plan on talking with him within the next week to decide whether or not we will be able to hold camp considering the restrictions of staffing, group size and accessibility to adequate facilities.

**River Walk Pavilion and Park:**

The bathrooms have officially been opened at the pavilion as of Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Turning the water on this year went smoothly with no noticeable leaks or issues. To accommodate social distancing, the Town has agreed to Reg. 12's proposal of installing snow fence around Ted Alex Field. Upon inspection of the installation, several issues were discovered that will hinder the lawn maintenance. It is being worked on to come up with a satisfactory solution. I have received a couple calls regarding bee activity next to and behind Dick Ayer Field. Jesse has identified these as polyester bees. They are not aggressive and likely won't bother anyone. They are great pollinators and should not be eradicated. They will be gone by the end of April. Temporary signs will be put up to inform folks of this.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:30p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Clerk