

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
July 12, 2021

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

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

Call to Order: Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:39p.m. welcoming Connie Chapin who will be the new Parks and Rec Coordinator. Connie will be starting next week.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Pickleball:** Jeff Hammond reported that the second set of taped lines for the pickleball courts has not worked due to not sticking to the court surface (the first set was vandalized). The Commission will now look into having the lines painted on. Connie Chapin offered to refer someone from New Milford who does this type of work.
- **Concerts:** Country Night is scheduled for July 24th at River Walk. Justin Spring of National Iron Bank has done a great deal of leg work for this event – lining up performers, obtaining sponsors, ordering signs, etc. Jeff asked the Commissioners to be on hand to man the table selling t-shirts and accepting donations. Gates will open at 4:00p.m. with the first band starting at 5:00p.m., followed by a “special guest”. The Headliner band will begin performing around 7:30p.m. The Mobile Pub and 2 food trucks will be present.
- **July 4th 5K:** As usual, everything went very smoothly with 111 runners/walkers registered and finishing. Thanks to all!
- **Summer Rec:** Week 2 has started and all is going very well. The number of campers remained at 20 due to COVID guidelines at the time of registration. Field trips and special guests have been scheduled and no problems have been encountered due to sharing space at the Primary School with other summer programs that are running.
- **Pavilion Attendant:** An attendant to clean the bathrooms and kitchen on weekends has not yet been found. Jeff has gotten a few estimates from cleaning services which are quite high – he is continuing to explore alternatives.
- **Boat launch:** All is going well. An additional attendant has been hired.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Restarting Morning Swim Program:** C.J. Kersten and Sheila Anson met with several of the morning swimmers who would like to see the program start up again. C.J. will be meeting with Superintendent Megan Bennett tomorrow to discuss the use of the pool for this program. He has spoken with Athletic Director Matt Perachi who explained that should the program be allowed to start again, the swimmers would need to be out by 7:00a.m. – not 8:00a.m. as some have requested. Following Sandy Hook, the Superintendent required there be a door monitor when the building was open. The monitor who was on duty prior to the pandemic (which forced

the pool to be closed) has retired and a replacement has not yet been found. The Commissioners discussed several possibilities and explained that those participating in the program may have to pay a bit more than they had been in order to cover the expense of the monitor. If details can be worked out, it is hoped that the program will begin in mid-August.

- **Activities/Events:** the Billy Joel Concert is scheduled for September 11th. More details to follow.
- **Use/Sale of Cannabis in Town:** Ray Reich asked the Commission if they felt it necessary to make a statement in regard to the legalization of marijuana. The Commissioners agreed that more information was needed and the State guidelines should be reviewed prior to a statement.

Chairman's Report: C.J. Kersten commented on the following:

- **Expression of sympathy to the Wyant Family** on the passing of "Butch" Wyant.
- **Thank you Greg Kraft** for power washing the Pavilion.
- **Congratulations to the Swanson Family Foundation Tournament** on another successful and well-run event.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:38p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk