

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**January 10, 2022**

**MEETING HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**

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

**Present:** Co-Chairman Sheila Anson, Commissioners Tim Cook, Alice Demeo, Carrie Rowe, Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Greg Kraft. Coordinator Connie Chapin; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Public:** Leslie Anderson, Jim Brinton.

**Press:** Linda Zukauskas - VOICES.

**Call to Order:** Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m. noting there was a quorum present and wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

**Approval of Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Alice Demeo, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **WPAL Update:** Connie Chapin reported that the program is doing well as is attendance. It was recently discovered that, by State law, those employed in the program should have been electronically fingerprinted with an October 2021 deadline. Connie has reached out to the State office of Early Childhood Education regarding the issue. Those involved in the program are employed by the school district as well and have been fingerprinted previously.
- **Morning Swim:** Sheila Anson reported the program is running smoothly with good attendance. Dave Werkhoven is doing a great job monitoring. The hours have been changed to 5:30a.m. – 7:30a.m. Swimmers need to be out of the pool by 7:15a.m. Connie Chapin reported the program is currently running in the black.
- **Family Skate at the Gunnery rink:** Mike Gorra notified Connie that there were 70 participants in Sunday evening's program. Mike inquired about Parks and Rec's endorsement of the Learn to Skate program. **Motion:** Washington's Parks and Recreation Commission agrees to endorse the Learn to Skate Program offered by Washington's Skating Association. By Ray Reich, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved. **Family Skate at Rumsey Hall rink:** There have been two sessions held at the Rumsey rink and they too have gone well. Rumsey is interested in providing a Learn to Skate program, at no cost, which would be taught by their hockey players. They will be back in touch with possible dates.
- **Pickle Ball:** Connie has spoken with Washington Montessori re: possible use of their gym space. More information to follow.
- **Karate:** Karate instructor, Frannie Caco, was unable to attend this evening's meeting to discuss the program with Commissioners and answer any questions. There was discussion as to what percentage of program fees come back to the Commission and in an effort to be consistent with all programs, Frannie and other instructors will be invited to future meetings.
- **Pavilion Stalls:** Connie has sent the measurements of the bathroom stalls to several suppliers for estimates on the cost to replace the.
- **River Walk Park:** Connie reported there are several or dying trees that could be dangerous. She will ask Groundskeeper Jesse Travers to take a look. If the job is not something he feels he and

the highway department can take care of, she will look into contacting a tree company. Connie will speak with Jesse about walking path maintenance.

- **Pavilion Rental Fees:** Connie has notified an organization who has rented the Pavilion for multiple days in the past, and would like to again this summer, of the change in the deposit fee policy. She has not yet heard back.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Parks and Rec Storage Rooms:** The storage rooms for parks and rec on the lower level of Town Hall have been cleaned out and articles consolidated and organized. There was discussion of use of the Bowling Alley area by Shepaug Valley Partnership. As there are fewer students in the program, there will be discussion about developing a schedule for use of the Bowling Alley by the public.
- **River Walk trees, path upkeep:** See above under “River Walk Park”.
- **Justin Spring:** Justin, from National Iron Bank, has expressed interest in working with Parks and Rec to develop new programs. More information to follow.
- **Beach Update:** The floats for the swimming dock need to be replaced and the Boat Launch attendees have requested safety vests. **Motion:** To approve an expenditure of up to \$800.00 for the purchase of new floats for the dock and an expenditure of up to \$100.00 for safety vests. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.
- **Activities/Events:**
  - Mike Croft of the **Shepaug Basketball Association** has requested funds in the amount of \$1500.00 from the Parks and Rec Commission to defray the cost of running the program this season. There are approximately 100 kids in the program (grades K – 8). No one in the Association is compensated. Funds would assist in paying for uniforms and making the program affordable for parents in the Region #12 community. Shepaug Baseball and Shepaug Soccer both receive \$1500.00. **Motion:** To approve the expenditure of \$1500.00 from the Parks and Recreation checking account for Shepaug Basketball and to request this amount be put into the parks and Rec town budget for 2022-2023. By Tim Cook, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.
  - **Winterfest:** Rumsey Hall has generously offered to host Winterfest on their campus. They have a snow gun in the event there is no natural snow for sledding, etc. A special meeting of the Commission may be needed for planning once a date is agreed upon.
  - **Budget planning:** Commissioners were asked to begin thinking of budget requests for the fiscal year 2022-2023 – particularly capital projects.
  - **Commissioner’s help:** Connie asked the Commissioners to assist with specific programs and areas that fall under the Commission’s purview. Tentatively: Pavilion – Joe Fredlund, C.J. Kersten, Tim Cook; Beach – Sheila Anson, Ray Reich, Greg Kraft; Harvest Festival – Carrie Rowe; Budget – C.J. Kersten, Alice Demeo. Assistance with the WPAL program would also be beneficial. The suggestion was made to inquire through the school district for this person.
  - **Youth Agency:** Connie expressed an interest in forming a Youth Agency in Washington in the future. It was suggested the subject be brought to the Selectmen for their input.

**Adjournment:** Sheila Adjourned the meeting at 6:41p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Clerk