

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
October 16, 2023

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

Present: Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Joe Fredlund, Tim Cook, Joanne Kelly, Carrie Rowe.
Community Services Director Jenn Pote; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.
Guest: First Selectman Jim Brinton.

Call to Order: Jenn Pote called the meeting to order at 5:37p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Carrie Rowe, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Harvest Festival:** The event was a great success with a large attendance. Next year there will be four port-a-potties ordered with one having handicap access. The other suggestion made was to make sure that the pop-up tents were staked due to windy conditions.
- **Basketball Court:** The Commission had discussed the resurfacing of the basketball court behind the Washington Primary School several months ago and how the project would be funded.
Motion: To approve \$5,000 from the Parks and Recreation Commission checking account for the resurfacing of the basketball court at the WPS. By Tim Cook, seconded by Carrie Rowe.
Discussion: Region #12 will also contribute \$5,000 as will the Town of Washington. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Pickle Ball Court:** The Board of Selectmen will extend an Invitation to Bid for the construction and installation of two pickle ball courts at its meeting on October 26, 2023. Bids will be due on November 13, 2023.
- **Pickle Ball** will continue through the winter at the WPS gym. Jenn Pote will work with C.J. Kersten to determine when basketball will be using the gym.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Dog Park:** First Selectman Jim Brinton attended this evening's meeting to discuss the construction of a Dog Park. While this has been discussed for several years, there remains some unanswered questions and concerns about its funding, maintenance, staffing, etc. Jim asked the Commission to consider how much, if any, involvement, it wanted to have and what responsibilities would then become those of the Commission. Although the consensus of opinions supports the creation of a Dog Park, it was felt that forming a non-profit 501-c-3 may be the most advantageous way to proceed. Jim will be meeting with some of the Dog Park committee members this week and will suggest they attend a Parks and Rec Commission meeting to fully explain and to answer questions.
- **Holiday in the Depot:** December 8, 2023. More details to follow.
- **After School Programs:** Jenn has been working with the athletic department of the Middle/High School to offer after school programs for middle schoolers to get an idea of sports they may wish to participate in as high schoolers. Currently, Tennis Coach, Joanne Kelly, has been offering

tennis to several middle schoolers. Jenn is also hoping to offer other programs such as Arts and Crafts, a program utilizing the Planetarium at the high School, etc. Other possible ideas for programs for children and adults, particularly in the winter months, will be discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:06p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Next Meeting: November 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk