

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
February 26, 2024

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

Present: Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Joe Fredlund, Greg Kraft, Joanne Kelly, Steve Inglese, Carrie Rowe, Tim Cook. Community Services Director Jenn Pote; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.
Guests: First Selectman Jim Brinton, Facilities Director Mark Showalter.

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 5:02p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Joanne Kelly and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Pickle Ball Courts:** Jim Brinton and Mark Showalter attended this evening's meeting to discuss changing the location of the proposed pickle ball courts from the original plan which was to install them between the tennis courts and the softball field at River Walk Park. This would encroach on the softball field and would have required moving the walking path in addition to seeking Inland Wetlands approval. The new location would be between the tennis courts and the Ted Alex Field. Jim and Mark have measured and staked out the area indicating there is ample room. Jim will contact Don O'Leary, Facilities Manager for Region #12, to inquire if there would be any issues as far as the school is concerned. The Commissioners agreed with this proposed change. More funding will need to be put into the Town's Capital Fund to complete the project.
- **Field Hockey Clinic:** Sheila Anson reported that the Field Hockey Clinic run by Jay Stuart and Owen Moore has been held at the Frederick Gunn School for the past several years at no charge. However, they have been informed by the School that they will begin charging for the field at the rate of \$150/hour. C.J. Kersten has contacted the Gunn's Business Director, Seth Lowe, to determine if something can be worked out. He has not yet heard back.
- **Budget:** Jenn Pote and several Commissioners met with the Board of Selectmen and Finance Director, Linda Gomez, to discuss the Parks and Recreation budget requests for FY 2024-2025. An increase in funding for events was requested as well as a minimum increase by Mark Showalter for fertilization of the playing fields.
- **Winter Bonfire:** The Winter Bonfire event held on February 18th at the old Town Garage site on Titus Road was a great success with many families attending. A special thank you to C.J. for plowing the area. Minor suggestions were made for next year.
- **Bowling Alley:** Jenn Pote will check with Mark Showalter re: the Bowling Alley and it's need to have the "alley" refinished or replaced.
- **Friday Programs:** Jenn has been working with Shepaug Assistant Principal Mike Croft and the Spartan Club to arrange programs for 4 Friday evenings in March geared to younger and middle school aged children.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Summer Staffing:** Jenn Pote reported that the Beach staff is nearly set with several returning for the upcoming season. She is also working on staffing for the Summer Recreation program.
- **Election of Officers: Motion:** To keep the slate of Officers as is: C.J. Kerstin, Chairman and Sheila Anson, Vice-Chairman. By Greg Kraft, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: March 11, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk