

## July 23, 2007

**Present:** Chairman Sheila Anson, Holly Haas, C.J. Kersten, Joe Fredlund, Tim Cook, Coordinator Lisa Easter, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 18, 2007 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Holly Haas, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

### Visitor:

- **Scott Werkhoven** attended this evening's meeting to discuss the possibility of a Shepaug student building a **storage shed for baseball equipment** near the Ted Alex Field. This would be done as a senior project. Scott explained that he felt this would be a beneficial addition to the playing field area as the basement to the Primary School - where much of the equipment is presently stored - is often wet in the spring - sometimes with several inches of water. A few locations were discussed - across the parking lot, near the school building by the dumpster, behind the first base dugout. The Commissioners asked Scott to have the student come before the Commission at its September 10 meeting, speak with the Land Use commissions, etc.

### OLD BUSINESS:

#### River Walk Park:

- Joe Fredlund reported that he, Tim Cook, C.J. Kersten, Scott Werkhoven, and Mark Showalter of the Gunnery met with Norville Lunan of Lunan's Landscaping to discuss needed **repairs and maintenance to the Baseball Fields**. Both Gunnery and Rumsey use Lunan's and he comes highly recommended. A proposal was distributed which outlined each field and what was recommended for each. The work would be done in different stages and over a period of time. **Motion:** To approve the expenditure of \$2200 from the Parks and Rec Little League monies and up to \$4300 from Field Upkeep for work on the fields as recommended by the sub committee. By Holly Haas, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved. This work will include repairs to the Ted Alex Infield, the Dick Ayer Field, Field 3 and the Joe Martin Field. Work on Field 4 will wait. Turf Maintenance will be taken care of through the General Fund budget. The Gunnery will take care of the Soccer Field weed control.
- Sheila Anson reported that in addition to the Relay for Life event held at the Pavilion, the **Swanson/Horrigan Scholarship Softball Tournament** was just held there and everything went perfectly. It was a great location - clean up was done perfectly and she extended a thank you to all who helped make it a success.
- Sheila and Joe reported that the new **stove, work area and shelving** have been delivered and are ready to be installed. The **expansion of the Septic System** will need to be done (the Selectmen will need to extend an Invitation to Bid).
- There was discussion of **building a storage area** - small addition to the back of the Pavilion - **for the tables and chairs** - Larry Cable, groundskeeper, will be able to build it. Joe and Sheila will present this to the Selectmen at their meeting this week.
- Another **donation has been made in memory of Diane Crosby** and the monies are to be used in the River Walk Park. It was decided to use this donation for the building of a "Notice Board."

- **Movie Night** went well - hoping more people will attend the potluck and movie as they become better known in the community. The September Movie Night may be a "kid's night" with hot dogs, popcorn, etc. being provided. More information will follow on this.
- There was general discussion as to the need for **liability insurance** when events are taking place at the Pavilion (rented by private citizens) vs. the signing of a waiver which states the Town will not be held responsible in the event of an accident, injury, etc. This will be looked into further.

#### **Beach/Boat Launch:**

- Sheila explained that Ray Reich was not able to attend this evening's meeting but reported that the boathouse has been demolished. There was discussion about the **beach hours and extending the days the beach is opened by starting the season on Memorial Day**. (A request made by several town residents.) Discussion included insurance, liability, staffing, budgetary issues, requesting an ex-budget appropriation from the Board of Finance if the beach were to open next Memorial Day, of approximately \$3000. The commissioners felt that increasing the days and hours was a reasonable request and were in favor of pursuing the matter further. It was recommended that David Miles, Town attorney, be consulted regarding proper signage and the liability issue. He may be invited to the next Paks and Rec meeting.

#### **Bowling Alley:**

- Lisa Easter has met with Bill Deering and work will be done this fall on **resurfacing the bowling alley**.

#### **Little League:**

- Tim Cook reported on the results of the **end of the year tournaments** - with special mention of the All Star team making it to the semi-finals.

#### **Fourth of July:**

- **Ray Reich** will make this report at the next meeting or at a special meeting yet to be scheduled.
- **Program Proposal:** As a follow-up to last month's discussion, Christine Schneider presented a proposal for a Pre-Season Injury Prevention and Conditioning Program to be held at the field area. The standard 5% will be given to Parks and Rec for their sponsorship. **Motion:** To approve Ms. Schneider's request to use the field area for her program on M,W,F 13-24 of August 2007 with the request that she report to the Commission on the program at the time of its completion. By Holly Haas, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

#### **COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Lisa Easter reported:

- **Playgrounds:** A request has been made by a neighbor of the Nick Platt Field that signs be posted stating the playground closes at sunset. The Commissioners were in favor of this. Lisa will take care of ordering the sign.
- **Bus Trips:** Tickets are now on sale for the "Radio City Christmas Show" on November 10 and "Wintuk" on January 5. The Red Sox game is sold out.
- **Swim** lessons have started for the summer session - 84 children are registered.
- **Summer Rec Camp:** the second session has begun. All counselors have been trained in administering the Epi-Pen (one camper has severe allergies). The new Pre K/K Director, Nicole Wood has settled in nicely.

- **Soccer Camp:** Numbers are down - may be cancelled if 20 students do not register (11 presently).
- **General Discussion** took place about having the different camp directors get together and discussion coordinating their camp times and hours - may increase attendance and may create schedules more popular for parents as well as participants.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Signs at Nick Platt Field and Beach:** see Coordinator's report and Beach and Boat Launch report above.
- **Senior Project/Ted Alex Field:** see Visitors/Scott Werkhoven above.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Sheila reported:

- **Personnel Committee,** Ray Reich, Joan Gauthey, Lou Magnoli, will meet with Lisa Easter to review her position and to ask and answer any questions.
- **Stephen Reich Freedom Run:** Held on the morning of July 4th, had more participants than ever - 153. Thanks to all who helped make it a success and who made it a smooth "running/walking" event! There was some discussion as to whether the commission wanted to get a bit more "high-tech" with timing devices, result clickers, etc. (In addition to the traditional Popsicle sticks, of course !) This will be discussed further.
- **Edible Nutmeg:** The newest addition has been released and Painter Ridge Farm is featured. Congratulations, Hank!
- **Movie Night:** Some of our distinguished commissioners and friends were pictured in the newspaper last week ... just who is that?!
- **July Birthdays:** 1st - Joe Fredlund, 10th - Tammy Marquis, 12th - Joan Gauthey, 25th - Mary Anne Greene, 27th - Tim Cook. Best to all!
- **Tammy Zinick and Desperado** appeared on "Inside Edition" - congratulations!
- **David Easter** has received his Eagle Scout award - congratulations to him and his family!

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

***NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007, 7:00 P.M. - Land Use Meeting Room.***

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk