

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
March 7, 2022

HYBRID MEETING

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

Present: Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Greg Kraft, Tim Cook, Sheila Anson, Carrie Rowe, Joe Fredlund, Ray Reich, Alice Demeo. Coordinator Connie Chapin, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.
Public: Leslie Anderson.

Call to Order: Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the February 7, 2022 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Alice Demeo and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Summer Camp:** Scheduled for July 5th through July 29th, 2022. Brian McCauley will be returning for his 10th year as Director. A new Arts and Crafts Director will be hired (Connie Chapin is currently waiting for confirmation). Brian will be coming into Town Hall in April and take inventory of supplies for camp.
- **Beach Staff:** Jeff Cox will be returning as Beach Director and will be contacting lifeguards to determine who will be returning. The Boat Launch staff will all be returning as well. Connie has ordered safety vests. Stickers and forms are all ordered for both the beach and boat launch.
- **Pavilion Partitions:** Connie has ordered new partitions for the bathrooms. She will contact the Highway Department to determine if Larry Cable can install. Weather permitting, the Pavilion will open mid-April.
- **Morning Swim:** Due to unforeseen circumstances, Morning Swim needed to be cancelled one morning last week. Monitor Dave Werkhoven will be returning on Wednesday of this week. Sheila Anson and Jaye Stuart have kindly been substituting as monitors until Dave's return. Sheila reported the program is running well.
- **Budget Review:** Connie reported there are no proposed increases in any current line items other than personnel raises. \$1500 has been added as a line item for the Shepaug Basketball Association as well as \$500 for Field Hockey Clinic. \$2000 will again be added to the budget for bus trips. There is the possibility of coordinating trips with the Towns of Warren and Kent. Connie will also reach out to the Town of New Milford.
- **After School Program:** Work is in progress to make the program more autonomous and to operate independently of Parks and Rec.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Pickleball Options:** Connie reported the Selectmen were in support of installing a Pickleball Court in the future in the WPS/River Walk Park area. She will begin to get estimates. In the meantime, there is the possibility of being able to use the WPS gym. Rumsey Hall School is in the process of refurbishing their courts and once completed is willing to allow Parks and Rec to

use. The courts at the Frederick Gunn School are another possibility. Connie continues to investigate and implement.

- **Community Block Party** is scheduled for Friday, June 3rd. The Washington Business Association has requested the Wool Hats Band and Connie is waiting for confirmation on their availability.
- **Dock Options:** the flotation devices under the swim dock at the Town Beach are no longer safe. It will cost \$3000 to replace them and \$4500 to \$7000 to purchase a new dock, flotation devices and ladder. Joe Fredlund offered to assist with getting bids/estimates, etc. **Motion:** To order a new swim dock with flotation devices and ladder for the Town Beach. By Greg Kraft, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.
- **Bus Trips:** See above under Budget Review.
- **Activities/Events:** Going forward, Connie would like to see more programs offered at the Pavilion; i.e. safe elderly activities, nutritional program, health and fitness programs, disc golf, more interest in use of the Bocce courts, etc. There was also discussion regarding installing exercise stations around the walking path by creating signs (not equipment) that would indicate various activities that could be done. It was suggested to contact Deb Andrews for her guidance on this. Joe Fredlund and C.J. Kersten are awaiting a price from Scotts for fertilizing the ball fields. Thank you to the Highway Department for removing and chipping dead trees along the path. The Buildings and Properties Commission is looking into “refreshing” the Pavilion with power washing, painting, etc.
- **Commission Work Days:** Commissioners have offered to get together at the Beach and River Walk park for Spring clean-up days – late March, early April.

Chairman’s Report:

- **Spring is Coming!**

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:23p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk