

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**July 11, 2023**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Greg Kraft, Joanne Kelly, Tim Cook, Joe Fredlund. Community Services Director Jenn Pote; Clerk Mary Anne Greene. Public: Jim Brinton, Tracy Brinton, Susan Rice.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:34p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Pickleball Update:** Jenn Pote reported the program has been very successful and she has extended it to two evenings a week through July and August: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:00pm – 6:30pm for beginners and 6:30pm – 8:00pm for more advanced players.  
**Visitor Susan Rice**, 5 School Street, attended this evening’s meeting to discuss what she feels may be a potential for disruptive noise when the outdoor pickleball courts are installed. As she has learned from doing some research, the noise created by the hard ball being hit by the hard paddle can be quite loud. She asked the Commission to consider ways of mitigating this potential problem such as requiring softer balls and paddles. Jenn explained that the site for the new outdoor courts was specifically chosen because of their distance from School Street residences. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Rice for attending and expressing her concerns and agreed to be mindful of this potential issue.
- **Town Beach Update:** Jenn Pote explained to the Commission that there have been several instances of people using the beach who are not Town residents. This may have occurred due to their using a relative with a Town of Washington address, or their being a tax payer but not a resident, etc. Moving forward, she feels that the guidelines for eligible beach goers needs to be clarified and consistent across the board. First Selectman Jim Brinton expressed his feeling that there are some gray areas in the current policy which have allowed non-residents to obtain passes. If the policy does allow tax payers who are not residents to get passes, the volume of people using the beach could increase dramatically. He suggested full-time Washington residents only and advised against revoking any passes this year but, rather work on a more defined policy that would go into effect starting Memorial Day 2024. The Commissioners agreed to work on the policy over the coming months so that it can be clear to all concerned by next beach season. Jenn advised the Commissioners that when visiting the beach this afternoon, a resident was walking her dog along the beach area. She pointed out that no dogs are allowed on the beach (there are signs indicating this) and the resident responded the dog was a “service dog”. Sheila Anson offered to check with the State’s Department of Agriculture regarding service dog regulations. She further reported the lifeguards are doing a great job. Adirondack chairs have been purchased and installed at the beach.

- **Basketball Court Resurfacing:** The resurfacing of the courts at the Washington Primary School has been completed.
- **Summer Camps Update: Summer Recreation** is doing very well. The extended day program is also successful and appreciated. Week 4 is sold out. **SUP Camp** has 8 participants registered. **Field Hockey Clinic** was a huge success with 40-45 participants.
- **Fourth of July Freedom Run:** The run held at Shepaug due to bridge work in Steep Rock had 87 participants and ran very smoothly. Although the course was more difficult than Steep Rock's the runners and walkers were pleased. The decision as to where to hold next year's run will be made over the coming months.
- **Boat Ramp:** Due to the heavy rains, the water level at the lake is high causing the ramp to be closed for the last couple of days and possibly again tomorrow. Otherwise it is running smoothly.
- **Country Fest:** July 22 on the lawn of the Town Hall is being sponsored by National Iron Bank and Parks and Rec. The event begins at 4:00p.m.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Lake Waramaug Association Request:** Maria Mostajo contacted Jenn to request permission to park 5 vehicles at the Town Beach on July 22 for an event LWA is sponsoring. Following discussion, the Commissioners denied the request due to the volume of beach goers on the weekends and the limited number of parking spaces.

#### **Chairman's Report:** C.J. Kersten and Sheila Anson reported the following:

- **Condolences to the family of Paul Lincoln Cornell.** Sheila gave tribute to "Linc" who was very supportive of the Parks and Recreation Commission and spearheaded the fundraising efforts for the bathrooms at the River Walk Pavilion.
- **Condolences to the families of Phil Allen and Darren Dutcher.**

**Next Meeting:** September 11, 2023.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:15p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Clerk