**Town of Washington**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**October 17, 2016**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Tim Cook, Ray Reich, Whitney Ryan.

Clerk Mary Anne Greene. Guest Brendon Vejseli.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the September 12, 2016 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved. (Thank you, Sheila!)

**Guest:**

* **Eagle Scout Brendon Vejseli:** Brendan attended this evenings meeting to discuss his Eagle Scout project which was supported by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The project involved removing invasives and planting 72 native perennials along the Shepaug River on a section of River Walk. Brendan and his core of volunteers also placed rocks along the walk to prevent erosion from heavy rains into the cleared section. Brendan presented his project to the Conservation Commission and went through the permitting process with the Inland Wetlands Commission. Brendan showed pictures of his completed work and felt that he had learned a great deal. He is hopeful to pass the project on to the “Green Club” at the Gunnery. He is expecting to receive his Eagle Scout badge in November or December. The Commissioners thanked and complimented Brendon on a job well done!

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Beach & Boat Launch:** Ray Reich reported the Boat Launch will close on October 30th. The hot water heater at the Beach House needed to be replaced. Beach Director, Jeff Cox, submitted his report on the 2016 season to Lisa Easter. Jeff reported how smoothly the summer went and how well the staff worked together providing a safe place for the Town residents and guests.
* **River Walk Park:** Sheila Anson and C.J. Kersten reported that the bathroom and kitchen floors will be painted next week. C.J. will check with Lisa Easter regarding the plumbing repairs needed in the bathrooms. C.J. also reported that approximately 20 volunteers have been working on the Ted Alex and Dick Ayer fields – laying sod and fill. A special “Thank You” to: Mark Lowe, Mike Kersten, Rob Hibbard, Tim Cook, Mike Donaghey, Neil Kennedy, Mike Schneider, Jason Conway, Justin Planz, Dave Cheney, Kevin Smith, Scott Werkhoven, Ethan Hibbard, Owen Hibbard, Austin Dutcher, Chance Dutcher, James Kennedy, Kyle Lamay, Connor Douskey, Brody Planz. Mark Lowe contributed countless hours and equipment and it has been estimated that if the work had been contracted out the cost would have been nearly $7500. **Motion:** To send Mark Lowe $1000 as a thank you for his time and equipment for work on the Ted Alex and Dick Ayer fields. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved. A new sprinkler system has been installed in the Dick Ayer field and is working well. Meadowbrook Landscaping will be doing a grub treatment in the fall. Tim Cook reported that the tennis courts are in need of attention and the work should be done prior to next season. C.J. will inform Lisa.
* **Bocce Courts:** Michael Gorra has written a letter from the Village Improvement Society that should be mailed out in the near future requesting donations for the construction of the courts.
* **After School Program:** Samantha Sommerer, Program Director, for the Play and Learn Program (After School Program) submitted a brief report on how the program is doing. At present there is a total of 18 children enrolled and is going well – praised by teachers and parents. The largest problem at present is there is no money in the budget for supplies such as paper, crayons, paint, etc. **Motion:** To approve an expenditure of $300 for the After School Program for the purchase of supplies. By Tim Cook, seconded by Whitney Ryan and unanimously approved. It was decided to invite Samantha, her assistant Janice Smith, Emily Judd and Michelle Gorra to the next meeting.
* **Concert:** No report.
* **WinterFest 2017:** Whitney Ryan reported that she has spoken to Sportsmen’s of Litchfield and confirmed the date of Saturday, February 25th. More details to follow. Whitney also mentioned Sportsmen’s had a couple of used SUPs for sale – unfortunately there is no place for storage at the Beach at the present time. Should we find a spot, a rack for holding them that could be locked was discussed.
* **Website:** Whitney Ryan reported she had spoken with Lisa Easter and the website has been updated with latest information on current and upcoming programs.

**COORDINATOR’S REPORT:** Lisa Easter reported the following:

* **ADULT MORNING SWIM**- Ongoing Monday – Friday 5:45 am to 7:30 am. $20/month

SVS put new lockers in the pool locker room. This presented a slight challenge for some of our swimmers, luckily it was done quickly.

* **BOOTCAMP**- With Deb Andrews – River Walk Pavilion 5:45-6:45 am, Tuesdays & Thursdays $10/class. They will move into WPS when the weather gets too cold to be outside at that hour!
* **GET FIT!** – With Melissa Evans, Sundays 7:30 am, Pavilion, $10/class. They will move into the Congregational Church Parish House when the weather gets too cold to be outside.
* **FALL SWIM-** Tuesdays and Fridays- Started October 4th and runs through Nov. 18th. We have 61 children registered!
* **KARATE:** Ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays at Montessori School.
* **MASTER’S SWIM** – Begins again in the fall.
* **HOLIDAY IN THE DEPOT**- Our 25th Year!! Let’s plan something special!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Lion’s Club Trivia Night:** Saturday, November 5th – Town Hall. Parks and Rec team?

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** C. J. Kersten reported the following:

* **Sincerest sympathy** to the Morse family on the unexpected death of Missy’s husband.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk