**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**December 10, 2018**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Tim Cook, Ray Reich, Alice Demeo, Joe Fredlund, Whitney Ryan, Carrie Rowe, Alternate Greg Kraft. Coordinator Jeff Hammond, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 5, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Whitney Ryan and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Holiday in the Depot:** Jeff Hammond reported that all is in order – including the weather! Jeff has not been able to get any students to help at the Town Hall with distributing glow necklaces, helping with the line to see Santa etc. Following discussion, it was decided that Commissioners would be able to assist with this if no one is found. The police, horse and carriage are confirmed. Lights on the new tree have been tested. First Selectman Mark Lyon will light the tree. Parks and Rec and the Washington Business Association are sharing the cost of luminaries that will be placed throughout the Depot.
* **Wellness Events:** Whitney Ryan reported the Mother/Daughter program will be held the evening of February 7, 2019 at the Gunn Library. Winterfest, so as not to be dependent on snow, will be held on February 15, 2019 5:00-7:00p.m. at the Pavilion. There will be fire pits, s’mores, snowshoeing if there is snow (Whitney meeting with Sportsmen’s to discuss this offering further), music – possibly open mike, food trucks and/or bring your own picnic. Details to be confirmed at the January 2019 meeting of the Commission.
* **Activities/Events:** Jeff has been looking into the possibility of a Brewery Tour. Use of the Senior Van may not be possible due to limitations stipulated in the grant.
* **Morning Swim:** Sheila Anson reported that parking and entering the building has changed due to the construction at Shepaug. At the request of the morning swimmers, the lanes in the pool are now being removed following swim practices. Swimmers now need to vacate the building by 7:45a.m. instead of 8:00a.m. There have been some complaints, however, Sheila and Jeff will email the swimmers and remind them that although it may be inconvenient, the facility rules need to be adhered to.
* **Signs for River Walk Pavilion:** Jeff has gotten sign holders for the bathroom doors and he and Liz Gugel are working on a sign for the WiFi password.
* **Berkshire League Sign at Ted Alex Field:** C.J. Kersten is lookinginto finding a sign man who will make a new sign that will stand up to the weather and will be able to have new dates ordered.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **2019 Meeting Dates:** All meetings are scheduled for 5:30p.m.at the Town Hall unless otherwise noted:

January 14 – 5:30p.m. Budget Workshop; 6:00p.m. Meeting

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10 – River Walk Pavilion

July 8 – Washington Town Beach

August – No meeting

September 9 – River Walk Pavilion

October 7

November 4

December 9

* **Budget Preparation Reminder:** Budget Workshop will be on January 14, 2019 at 5:30. Items and ideas – new and old – to be included in next year’s budget will be discussed.

**COORDINATOR’S REPORT:** Jeff reported the following:

Holiday in the Depot

This year’s event has gathered a lot of attention on Facebook. Thousands of people have seen the post with about 1200 clicking “interested”!

Most preliminary preparations are all set. I have been approached by Denise Arturi on behalf of Deb Swigart. She will be gifting a holiday themed townscape encased in glass to Washington Parks & Rec. Her hope is that it will be viewed and enjoyed by community members around the holidays. Let’s hope for good weather and a good crowd.

As a result of offering the tickets aboard the Northern Lights Limited, I have been talking with the Railroad Museum and will be working on facilitating a program/field trip opportunity for 4th graders at WPS as well as the possibility of a program at Gunn Jr. Library.

Pavilion

The Pavilion has been closed and winterized. I have sign holders to mount on the doors. At this time, I am planning on waiting until the spring to install them. I am looking to do a natural wood round for the WiFi info and am working on getting things set with that.

I have spoken to the Highway Dept. about keeping the parking area clear and piling the snow in a manner that is usable by the kiddos (if we get any snow) in preparation for our Winter Festival in February.

Beach/Boat Ramp

Jesse has been working on the boat ramp docks at the Highway Garage. They have been pressure washed and will be re-stained and get some minor repairs. It looks like the swim platform will have to wait until the spring due to weather considerations.

Everything Else…

Concerning our discussion about using the new senior van for brewery tours, I must wait until we receive it. Because this new van is state funded, I need to review policies to ensure it is allowed before offering it. I’d like to ask everyone to please keep an eye on our Facebook page. Please share my posts about events and such to help get the word out.

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

* **Celebrate and honor the life of President H. W. Bush…**
* **Good luck** to all winter sport teams.
* **Happy Holidays!**
* **Happy Birthday** Alice Demeo and Greg Kraft.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:55p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk