**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**December 8, 2014**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Ray Reich, Whitney Ryan, Carrie Rowe, Joe Fredlund, Laura Martin, Tim Cook, Sheila Anson. Coordinator Lisa Easter; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 5, 2014 regular meeting and the November 17, 2014 special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Laura Martin and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Beach/Boat Launch:** Ray Reich reported “All’s quiet!”
* **River Walk Park:** The Pavilion is closed for the season. The asphalt apron has been poured around the Pavilion. Hank Ference of Painter Ridge Farm made wreaths for the Pavilion – thank you, Joe Fredlund for hanging them – looks great!
* **Bocce Courts:** C.J. Kersten and Joe Fredlund reported that they will be speaking with Michael Gorra and will invite him to an upcoming meeting to discuss more details. The cost of the courts is covered by a donation from the Village Improvement Society, Parks and Rec funds and funds donated in memory of James and Norma Anson (with the Anson family’s approval). Joe would also like to involve Jay Combs from the Washington Supply in the planning of the courts.
* **Holiday in the Depot:** State Champion Shepaug Cross-Country team will light the tree at the Town Hall at 6:00p.m. Coordinator Lisa Easter requested the Commissioners be available for assistance at the Town Hall with Santa, distribution of glow sticks, etc.
* **4th of July:** Ray Reich presented the Commission with a report of the finances. Due to 2013’s show being cancelled, the year started with a beginning balance of $55,162. An additional $7,194 was collected this year from the sale if car passes, VIP passes and t-shirts. Expenses amounted to $31,419 for the fireworks, State permit, port-a-potties, t-shirts, police, custodial charges, etc. leaving a balance of $30,937. Ray will be meeting with Atlas (fireworks company) to discuss last year’s show – many shells did not fire, causing the show to have gaps and to run longer than it should have. He is hoping for a “credit” to be applied to the 2015 show. July 4, 2015 falls on a Saturday. The Commission agreed not to have a rain date of July 5. There was discussion of looking into other fireworks companies, however, the Commission agreed with Ray to stay with Atlas as shows in previous years have been outstanding.
* **Winterfest:** Whitney Ryan reported that she has confirmed with Sportsmen’s of Litchfield for Saturday, February 28, 2015 from 1:00-3:00p.m. They will provide snowshoes for rent and will have a representative from TUBBS Snowshoe Company there to give a demonstration. This event will be discussed further at the January meeting.

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

* **BABYSITTING COURSE—**Was heldSaturday afternoons November 8th and 15th from 1-3pm. We had 9 students. It was a success!
* **BOOT CAMP:** Ongoing Tuesdays and Thursdays at WPS. 5:30 AM!!
* **BUS TRIP-**Wednesday, Dec. 10th Radio City Music Hall for $78 pp or $33 for bus only. We are SOLD OUT!
* **HOLIDAY in the DEPOT:** Friday, Dec 12th. We (Washington Business Association) and the Parks & Recreation are ready to go! See above under Old Business.
* **KARATE:** Ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays at Montessori School.
* **MASTERS SWIM PROGRAM:** Dom Gillen and John Moisan are taking on the Master’s Swim Program again this winter. The classes are scheduled (pending Reg. 12’s approval) to be held Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm from January 7th to March 11th.
* **OPEN SKATE/LEARN TO SKATE & HOCKEY**- All info for hockey and Learn-to-Skate is on the website [www.nwcyh.com](http://www.nwcyh.com). As for Free/Family Skate, it starts Sunday, November 17. 4:45-7pm every Sunday through March 1. $5 per person/session or $145/family for the season. I will be putting together a flyer soon.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Budget 2015-2016:** The Commissioners will meet January 12, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for a budget work session prior to the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00p.m.
* **Steep Rock Donation:** C.J. Kersten, Sheila Anson and Laura Martin will meet with Town Treasurer, Linda McGarr, to discuss the proper accounting procedure for making a donation to Steep Rock and/or other non-profit organizations.
* **Meeting Dates: Motion:** To approve the following dates for Parks and Recreation Commission meetings for 2015 (to be held at 7:00p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall): January 12, February 19, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 15, July 20, August-cancelled, September 14, October 5, November 9, and December 14. By Laura Martin, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.
* **Sandy Hook Remembrance Walk:** Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 9:00a.m. at River Walk Park.

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

* **Congratulations** to Liz and Eric Gibbs (Liz Greene) on the birth of Kate Elizabeth on November 17th.
* **Remember the victims of Sandy Hook.**
* **Thank you** to the Parks and Rec Commissioners for a great year – many things were accomplished.
* **Congratulations and best wishes to Kathy Gollow and Phyllis Allen** on their retirement after a combined 62 years of service to the Town!
* **Safe and Happy Holiday wishes** to all!

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. to wrap Christmas gifts. Mary Anne Greene thanked the Commissioners for their adopting a family – again – this Christmas season!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene, Clerk