**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**March 13, 2017**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Joe Fredlund, Sheila Anson, Carrie Rowe, Tim Cook, Ray Reich. Coordinator Jeff Hammond; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 6:09p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

***Welcome*** *to Jeff Hammond to his first meeting as Parks and Rec Coordinator!*

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 9, 2017 Meeting, the January 17, 2017 Special Meeting and the March 2, 2017 Special Meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Beach & Boat Launch:** Mary Anne Greene reported that the Board of Selectmen approved the renewal of the Beach House Lease with Chris and Leah Papsin for the period April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018. Ray Reich reported that Hank Vallely will return as Boat Ramp Manager for the 2017 season.
* **River Walk Park:** Wes Gladding has started work at the Park as Groundskeeper cleaning River Walk of winter debris, etc. C.J. Kersten reported that use of the Dick Ayer Field by Gunnery has been approved by Region #12 Athletic Director Matt Perachi and that Premier will be treating the clay in that Field. C.J. Will check with Highway Director Kevin Smith regarding the final cleanup of processed stone and the replacement of the fence post as a result of the Gilmore Girls Festival last Fall. Tim Cook reported a tree has fallen into the river behind the tennis courts and has offered his assistance to remove it.
* **Bocce Courts:** Thank you, Joe Fredlund for obtaining the necessary permits from Inland Wetlands Commission for installation of the Bocce Court!! Cost will be $14,690. Funding will be provided by the Village Improvement Society and monies donated in memory of Norma and James Anson. **Motion:** To approve the payment from the Parks and Recreation Commission checking account of no more than $5,300.00 to complete the project scheduled to begin April 1, 2017. By Tim Cook, seconded by Carrie Rowe and unanimously approved.
* **Bowling Alley:** The floor has been refinished, table has been assembled. Tim Cook offered to contact Honey Stoeffler regarding picture of old Washington for the walls.
* **After School Program:** Program Director Samantha Sommerer and Michelle Gorra will be asked to provide a report to the Commission at the end of the program.
* **Concerts:** Survivor’s Swing Band – Town Hall, Friday, April 28, 2017.
* **2017 Health Initiatives:** Commissioners agreed the program was a success and would like to repeat it in 2018. Sheila Anson offered to send thank you notes to all who gave of their time and space.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Recreation Coordinator:** Jeff Hammond began his role as Coordinator on March 7th. He has been busy working on the bus trip to Mohegan Sun with his predecessor Lisa Easter, spring swim lessons, summer programs and new ideas.
* **Fishing Outreach Program:** Mary Anne Greene reported that Joe Kowalski attended a meeting of the Board of Selectmen in January to explain his Fishing Outreach Program which he began nine years ago. He takes veterans from all over the State fishing for a day. At the end of the day they receive a rod and reel and a tackle box full of baits – all provided by sponsors. He requested waiving of the boat launch and inspection fees should he bring a veteran to Lake Waramaug. The Selectmen approved this request and asked that Parks and Rec do the same. **Motion:** To approve waiving of the launch and inspection fees for the Fishing Outreach Program. By Tim Cook, seconded by Carrie Rowe and unanimously approved.
* **Berkshire League Championship Sign** is ready for pick up at New Milford Sign Shop. Joe Fredlund and C.J. Kersten offered to pick it up.
* **Tennis Courts:** Joe Fredlund has been looking into repairing and/or resurfacing of the tennis courts by the Primary School. One court is unplayable and unsafe. Estimates have ranged from $43,000 to $80,000. **Motion:** To approve the purchase of a crack filler ($72/gallon) to “patch” the court this year. By Tim Cook, seconded by Carrie Rowe. Discussion: The Commission will investigate the more permanent repair options for consideration in next year’s capital improvement budget. The motion passed unanimously.
* **Election of Officers:** **Motion:** To elect C.J. Kersten as Chairman and Sheila Anson as Vice Chairman. By Tim Cook, seconded by Carrie Rowe and unanimously approved.
* **Change of Monthly Meeting time: Motion:** To change the time of the Parks and Recreation Commission monthly meeting from 6:00p.m. to 5:30p.m. By Tim Cook, seconded by Carrie Rowe and unanimously approved.

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

* **Sympathy extended** on the passing of **Dennis Hussey** who touched so many lives!!
* **Congratulations** to Brendan Smith on a job well done in his role in “Sister Act” at Wamogo!
* **St. Patrick’s Day Dance** this Saturday, sponsored by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Saturday, March 18th.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:59p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk