**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**March 14, 2016**

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

**Present:** Vice Chairmen Sheila Anson and Joe Fredlund, Commissioners Ray Reich, Carrie Rowe, Tim Cook. Coordinator Lisa Easter; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**Visitor:**

* **Michelle Gorra,** Region #12 Board Member, attended this evenings meeting to present a proposal for starting an After School Program at WPS under the sponsorship of Parks and Rec. In 2015 a survey conducted by Education Connection demonstrated 20 Washington families were interested in this type of program. Last year, Education Connection attempted to start the program, however they required a minimum of 18 students and only 11 registered. If the program were to be run by a municipal agency (i.e. Parks and Rec Commission) no licensing with the State would be required (safety protocols and certifications would be required) and the fees charged could be lower. Following lengthy discussion, the Commissioners agreed to come up with a list of questions and concerns and suggested Michelle and Principal Emily Judd attend next month’s meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

**Blanche Cook:** Sheila Anson asked the Commissioners to pause before beginning the meeting to recognize, remember and celebrate the life of Blanche Cook, mother of Commissioner Tim Cook, who passed away a few weeks ago.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Beach and Boat Launch:** The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the lease with Chris and Leah Papsin, Beach Caretakers, for the period April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017. Congratulations to Chris and Leah who are expecting a baby boy in June! Ray Reich reported that the new fencing has been installed at the boat launch. Ray has arranged to have a new 4 ‘ x 4’ sign made for the beach showing opening and closing dates, hours, etc. Cost will be $375. The Papsins have requested a new dead bolt lock for the beach house. Ray will follow up on this.
* **River Walk Park:** The Commissioners will schedule a work day in mid-April. New plantings will be done in the entrance area to the Pavilion. The porta-potty has been delivered and will remain until the bathrooms open. A problem was reported with the bolts on the teeter-totter in the Tot Lot – Lisa Easter will check to see if it has been repaired. Wes Gladding, Groundskeeper, has started working – tennis nets are up and new cranks have been ordered. Lisa has ordered new t-shirts for Wes. C.J. Kersten and Joe Fredlund met with Dave Swanson re: the outfield in the softball field. It is in need of aerating, seeding and fertilizing. Dave will also do a soil test.
* **Bocce Courts:** C.J. Kersten and Joe Fredlund have met with a representative from the company who may install the bocce court at the Pavilion. He feels the only place to install it is behind the Pavilion. He will work up an estimate of cost.
* **Fireworks:** Ray Reich reported he has met with Atlas and addressed problems with last year’s show. It was agreed to schedule the show for Saturday, July 2nd with a rain date of Sunday, July 3rd (the annual 4th of July Freedom Run will be held on Monday, July 4th). Ray requested the Commissioners come up with a list of patriotic songs and send them to him so that he can make a CD to be played at this year’s fireworks show. **Motion:** To spend an additional $1000 to increase the number of fireworks shells to enhance the “Last Blast”! By Tim Cook, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved. Carrie Rowe and Sheila Anson will look into mugs or wine cups that may be sold along with t-shirts and tote bags. Ray will arrange for a press release to be done regarding Washington’s last fireworks show. Joe Fredlund suggested that something be done in connection with the last show honoring the past commissioners of the Parks and Rec Commission. The July 4th run will continue each year on the 4th.
* **Winterfest 2016:** cancelled due to no snow.
* **River Park:** the new fence will be installed by the Town’s Highway Department.
* **Constant Contact:** Lisa Easter will order this program so that she can send email blasts on programs, general information, etc. to large numbers of people at one time. The cost is $168/year.
* **Stroller Bootcamp:** Lauren Werkhoven is ready to get this program started following its approval last month. Sheila will ask her to get the necessary information to Lisa.
* **Washington Business Association:** Parks and Rec has joined. Carrie Rowe will represent the Commission at meetings.

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

* **Adult Morning Swim:** ongoing Monday-Friday 5:30 – 7:30 a.m. $20/month.
* **Baseball/Softball/Spring Soccer:** signups at [www.shepaugbaseball.com](http://www.shepaugbaseball.com) and [www.shepaugsoccerclub.com](http://www.shepaugsoccerclub.com).
* **Bootcamp:** Deb Andrews: Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:45-6:45 a.m. – WPS gym. $10/class.
* **Get Fit!:** Melissa Evans: Sundays, 7:30 a.m. - First Congregational Church. $10/class.
* **911 Memorial Museum:** TBD
* **Karate:** ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays at Montessori (session began February 22).
* **Master’s Swim:** Wednesdays - January 13 – March 30, 7:00 – 8:30p.m. Shepaug. $80/session.
* **Spring Swim Lessons:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – sign ups going on.
* **Spring Lifeguarding Course:** Sign ups closed. Course March 18 – May 27.
* **Summer Schedule:**

**Summer Rec Camp –** July 5 through August 5. Afternoon Camps: Tennis, Span Art, Shark Tank for Guppies, Multi Sport.

**June, July, August Camps –** Summer Swim Team, ACE Baseball, Lego, Tennis, Dimensions Basketball, Field Hockey, Science Camp, Multi port.

**Contact the Parks and Rec Office for more information on camps.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **After School Program at WPS:** Will be discussed further and voted on at the next meeting.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** Sheila Anson reported the following:

* **Thoughts are with Tammy Marquis** whose sister-in-law has entered hospice.
* **Get Well thoughts to Phyllis Allen** who is recuperating from heart surgery.
* **Congratulations to the Fredlunds** on the engagement of Sarah.
* **Congratulations to Madeline Smith** who won the 2015 US Tennis Association National Singles title in Vancouver, Wash.
* **Chocolate Festival,** Saturday, March 19, Legion Hall.
* **Thoughts are with Pam Quist** whose father is seriously ill.
* **Get Well thoughts to Jane Moore** who broke her knee cap.
* **Congratulations to Gunnery Hockey** on winning the division championship and thank you to the Fire Department for the “victory parade” through the Depot.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk