**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**June 11, 2018**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Joe Fredlund, Alice Demeo, Ray Reich, Tim Cook, Greg Kraft. Coordinator Jeff Hammond, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:40p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the May 14, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **River Walk Pavilion: 1)** As there has been discussion of out-of-town organizations, individuals, etc. using the Pavilion (having a Washington resident rent the facility) for events resulting in a profit for that organization or individual, Coordinator Jeff Hammond asked the Commissioners to give their opinion. Following discussion, the Commissioners concurred that the Pavilion should not be rented for profit making events for out of town organizations and/or individuals. It should be rented for local, personal and non-profit organizations only. **2)** The new security system has been installed at the Pavilion. **3)** Tim Cook suggested new signage at the entrance to the Pavilion and inquired as to who owned the property between the Ted Alex Field and the Primary School – it is in need of cleaning up. **3)** Groundskeeper Jesse Travers is working out very well and may be able to assist with the fence repair at the Beach House. C.J. Kersten will suggest Jesse work with Scott Werkhoven regarding the irrigation system. **4)** Locks on the utility room door and front kitchen door need to be repaired/replaced - Jeff Hammond will speak with Dave Boccuzzi.
* **Beach/Boat Ramp:** See below under “New Business”.
* **4th of July:** As the Fire Department is not interested in cooking for the picnic at the Pavilion, and Salem Church does not appear to be an option, Jeff Hammond and a friend have offered to smoke pork for pulled pork sandwiches. The picnic will be advertised as BYO with sandwiches offered.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Pavilion Usage:** See above under “River Walk Pavilion”.
* **Beach Requests:** Jeff Hammond has received a request to prohibit smoking in the parking area at the Beach. Currently smoking is not allowed on the beach or in the picnic area. Commissioners agreed and Jeff will have a sign made for the fence and it was suggested that the no smoking policy be added to the agreement that residents sign when they get their beach pass for the season. Jeff has also heard from a resident who thought that the plans for upgrading the beach area several years ago included a small craft dock to be constructed on the left side of the beach for kayakers, a “tot lot”, barbecue grills and a bike rack be added as well. Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed to look into the dock and Jeff will order a bike rack. It was also decided not to add the grills and tot lot. The suggestion has also been made to trim the hedge along the fence.
* **Activities/Events:** **Harvest Festival** planning has begun and Parks and Rec will once again co-sponsor this event with the Washington Business Association on October 13, 2018. Ray Reich offered to work on the planning with WBA as a Parks and Rec representative. There will again be a scarecrow contest along with numerous games. Jeff Hammond is looking into “Traveling Train” that would take participants for a train ride around the River Walk. The Fire Department and Pizza House will be asked to provide food for sale and Jeff will contact the band “The Regulators”. Alice Demeo offered to borrow a bouncy house from a friend, and Tim Cook offered to supply 40 bales of hay for the hay maze.
* **Fun With Fitness:** Lauren Werkhoven and Deb Andrews have requested that Parks and Rec sponsor a 7 week fitness program for Shepaug students to stay fit over the summer. The cost would be $5/class or $70 for the full program. The Commissioners agreed to sponsor the program.
* **Town Events Newsletter:** Ray Reich has been approached by a couple who is willing to put together a newsletter that would include all Town events, meetings, sport schedules, etc. It was suggested that they be invited to the July meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission.

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

Summer Rec and Camps

Camp enrollment is still very low. I have heard that many parents aren’t signing up for our core camp because of the change in venue.

Bus Trips

As previously mentioned, at the request of the WVFD, I have set up a trip to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum for Saturday, July 28th. At this time, I only have 7 reserved seats. I ask that you all please help to spread the word so we won’t have to cancel. The bus will leave at 8am and return at approx. 7pm. Tickets will cost $55 and include: transportation, driver gratuity, and ticket into museum.

Beach Requests

Diane DuPuis(sp) has requested that we post and enforce a no smoking policy that covers the beach, picnic and parking area. Currently we enforce a policy of no smoking within the picnic/beach area. The complaint is that someone smoking right outside the fence is still bothersome.

Mary Weber is looking to follow up on the renovation plans for the beach area from several years ago. She has requested that, as originally planned/considered for, we address the need for the following: A personal craft dock to the left of the beach, a bike rack, swingsets/playground, and bbq pedestals.

Pavilion

As indicated on the agenda, a discussion and decision will need to be made regarding the use policy of the Pavilion. There have been recent concerns brought to my attention regarding the use of our facility for monetary gain by a private business.

4th of July

Flashback is confirmed for Wednesday, July 4th. They had previously booked an event on July 7th so unfortunately, we do not have a rain date option. As previously mentioned in an email, the Fire Department is not interested in cooking. Is Salem Church still an option?

Everything Else…

The scoreboard for Dick Ayer Field is set to be installed on Monday. New security and monitoring has been installed at the Pavilion and is up and running. It’s time to start thinking about this year’s Harvest Festival. I plan on getting an email thread going in the coming week. 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 REPROT:** C.J. Kersten reported the following:

* **Congratulations to Shepaug Sports Teams on a great season!**
* **Happy Birthday to Sheila Anson!!!**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:00p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk