**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**July 9, 2018**

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

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

**Call to Order:** Co-Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 11, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **River Walk Park:** Jeff Hammond reported that Groundskeeper Jesse Travers is doing well, keeping up with work that needs to be done. Sheila Anson reported she will open and close the Pavilion when Attendant Liz Gugel is unable to. Jeff Hammond will look into getting sign holders for the bathroom doors that can have notices put in them such as “wet floor”, etc. Peter Houldin has volunteered to power wash the Pavilion floor.
* **Beach/Boat Ramp:** Jeff Hammond reported the beach has had a busy season. Head Lifeguard Jeff Cox arranged for an extra guard to be on duty during the recent heat wave. The “No Smoking” sign has been ordered and should be received soon. Boat Launch has been busy as well.
* **4th of July:** The first “annual” picnic held at the Pavilion was thought to be a success although attendance may have been down a little due to the heat wave. The band Flashback, as always, was a hit and helped draw people. There was discussion as to possibly scheduling future picnics a little later in the afternoon and having more for the children to do – i.e. water slide, games, etc. Jeff suggested postponing the idea of a 4th of July parade for a few years until the picnic becomes an established event.
* **Activities/Events:** **1)Trip to 9-11 Memorial** has been cancelled due to the low number of sign-ups. **2)Concert** – September 8, 2018 – 6:00-8:00p.m. has been scheduled. It will be a Billy Joel tribute and will be held on the front steps of Town Hall. Greg Kraft suggested we look into scheduling a series of concerts next summer – similar to neighboring towns.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Harvest Festival:** Jeff Hammond reported that planning for this has begun!
* **Coordinator’s Report:**

**Summer Rec and Camps:** Our core rec camp enrollment has reached a decent level. We have a minimum of 30 campers each week with week 3 being the biggest at close to 45. I had to consolidate the LEGO camp to just the morning session but was at least able to run it this year. I had to cancel the afternoon camp in week 1 and will likely have to cancel week 3 as well but will be running weeks 2 and 4. The multi sports camp, which normally does well, is still below the minimum level as is the HCIT Science camp. The Stand-up Paddle board camp is doing very well, with more campers signed up than last year with several weeks of enrollment still to go. Along with the camp for kids we are trying to offer an adult camp in the afternoon, the week of August 13th. At this time there hasn’t been much interest. Please spread the word to anyone you know that may be interested in giving it a try. It runs from 1-4 Monday through Friday and costs $140.

**Bus Trips:** I will be cancelling the trip to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum due to low interest.

**Beach Requests:** As previously discussed, I am moving forward with a couple of the beach requests. I have asked the Highway Dept. to order the “No Smoking on Premises” sign. When that comes in they will put it up. I will be researching a bike rack in the coming weeks now that camps are underway and the 4th of July is behind us.

**4th of July:** Thank you to everyone that pitched in at the 5K and picnic even with the very hot and humid day. After reviewing the sign in and time sheets, I can tell you we had over 175 participants ranging from under a year old to their mid-70s and from LA to the UK. For our first attempt at a concert/picnic sans fireworks on the 4th, I’d say it was a great success. We had approx. 75-100 people stop by the Pavilion between 2 and 5. Actually, the first couple, who drove up from Ansonia, showed up at around noon in anticipation of hearing Flashback. While I believe the food option was enjoyed by those that partook, unfortunately it was a losing venture as not enough plates were sold to break even. Will consider different menu options and preparing a smaller quantity next year.

**Everything Else**…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.

* **Activities/Events:** Jeff Hammond he is working with Averill Farm to have Parks and Rec co-sponsor a Food Truck Festival at the farm – tentatively scheduled for August 21, 2018.

**Chairman’s Report:** C.J. Kersten and Sheila Anson reported:

* **Sympathy to Papa Joe’s Family!**
* **Kudos to** Roxanne Kraft, Robin Hirschfield, Pam Quist and Diane (?) for attempting to hike the Appalachian trail from Massachusetts to Vermont!
* **Congratulations** to Liz Gugel and Jerry Crandall on their wedding!
* **Congratulations** to the Shepaug Baseball team!
* **Congratulations** to Bob Alex for being featured in the latest edition of “Nutmeg”.
* **Thank you** to all who helped at the 4th of July road race.
* **Happy July Birthdays** to Joe Fredlund, Tim Cook, Mary Anne Greene and **August Birthday** to Ray Reich.

**Adjournment:**  The meeting was adjourned at 6:35p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk