**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**September 10, 2018**

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

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

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:36p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the July 9, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Harvest Festival:** Jeff Hammond reported that the Harvest Festival, October 13, 2018, at the River Walk Park is taking shape. The band is confirmed as is the mobile pub, and Fire Department for cooking. They may expand the menu to include pizza, fried foods etc. There will be a hay bale maze (set up Friday late afternoon). Donna Wright has volunteer students from Shepaug lined up. Parks and Rec will work on its scarecrow at the October meeting. Alice Demeo offered to bring costumes, Carrie Rowe will get frame and hay for “stuffing”. The “trackless train” is confirmed and will run on the walking path. There will be no charge for the train but a “donation bucket” will be set up.
* **Concerts:** The Billy Joel concert on September 8th went very well with 125+ people attending on the front lawn of the Town Hall. The Commissioners discussed holding several concerts throughout the year with various ideas for funding them.
* **Beach/Boat Ramp:** The Beach is closed and Jeff Hammond reported the season went well. A “No smoking” policy has been instituted. The Boat Ramp is on its Fall schedule.
* **Tennis Courts:** The bid for resurfacing the tennis courts at the Primary School has been awarded to Putnam Tennis Courts and work should be starting in the next several weeks.
* **Activities/Events:** See Coordinator’s Report below.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Scarecrow Design:** See Harvest Festival above.
* **Activities/Events:** The Commissioners discussed holding Health and Wellness events again this winter. It was decided to hold fewer events and ideas for programs will be discussed further at the upcoming meetings.

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

Summer Wrap-up

While I did have to cancel a couple afternoon and August camps, our core camp performed reasonably well. Numbers were similar to last year and in general, most kids enjoyed being at the primary school, even during a hot July with no A/C.

The beach and boat ramp have both operated without any major issue the entire summer season. While there was some question about the health of our swim platform at the beach early on, it held up just fine. I did not hear any complaints or issues. This summer, “No Smoking on Premises” signs were installed at the beach. We are still experiencing some issues with guests smoking. With Labor Day behind us, the beach is closed for the season and the boat ramp is on the fall schedule until closing at the end of October.

Concerts

Hopefully at this meeting we will all be discussing what a great success our recent concert featuring “River of Dreams” was. With lawn signs posted and Facebook posts circulating, I’m hoping we will have a good crowd. Moving forward, thinking about other concerts, we will need to greatly increase our summer concerts budget if we are to expand any further. At this time, we barely have enough for two performances per year. I’m hoping to expand that budget next year but it will leave us limited until then.

Harvest Festival

Planning for the Harvest Festival has begun. There has been some issue getting everyone together early on but I’m hoping that as we get closer, that won’t be an issue. I have secured “The Regulators” again this year as well as the Mobile Pub for drinks. New this year, Parks & Rec will also be sponsoring a trackless train. This train will drive children/families around the walking path. In the spirit of keeping things free, I am looking to offer free rides but have a secured donations box by the “train station”. I have spoken to Marisabel Artieda, who has agreed to come back this year to do face painting. Since it was popular last year, she will be bringing an associate to help. So far I have secured 170 bales of hay for our hay maze. That’s almost double last year so it should be a fun maze. Another idea I floated to enhance our festival this year was tethered balloon rides. Unfortunately, after looking into it, rental companies only offer rides two hours after sunrise or before sunset due to wind issues. If we ever expand to an all-day event, maybe we can revisit this option. The business association is handling the vendor sign up for tables as well as the flyer for scarecrows and other info. Day of, there will be plenty to do from setup to breakdown so I’m hoping everyone will be around to help out if needed.

Swim Lessons

As it turns out, I am having a difficult time finding a replacement for Mo. At this time I do not have anything scheduled for fall swim lessons. The folks I’ve asked locally have all said no, citing busy schedules and such. Surprisingly, I have not received a single inquiry from my Facebook job post either. I will continue looking and try to get someone through a local Y or club.

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.

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

* **9-11:** Remember and honor the lives lost.
* **Happy Belated Birthday** (August) to Jeff Hammond.

Sheila Anson reported the following:

* **Happy Birthday** to C.J. Kersten.
* **Congratulations and thank you** to Steep Rock Association for another successful annual picnic and to the Lions Club for their Labor Day Lobster Sale and annual Car-b-que.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:45p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene

Clerk