**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**April 8, 2019**

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

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

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:33p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 11, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Ray Reich, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **June Concert:**  The Wool Hats will be performing on the steps of the Town Hall on Friday, June 7, 2019, 6:00-8:00p.m. This event is being held in conjunction with the Washington Business Association’s “Community Day” that is taking place along with “First Friday” in the Depot. There will be various food and beverage offerings, activities throughout the Depot and the movie “Casablanca” will be shown at the Judy Black Park.
* **Pavilion:** Jeff Hammond reported that Jesse Travers is back as groundskeeper at the River Walk Park and Pavilion and has begun the spring cleanup. The bathrooms are open to the public (2-3 weeks earlier than last year). Stone dust has been ordered for the batting cage at the Ted Alex Field. Jeff also reported that he has requested Jesse’s hours be increased to 1500/year in the 2019-2020 budget. This would allow Jesse more time to do field maintenance and to be available to the Buildings and Property Commission and Highway Department throughout the year as needed. It is hoped that the work on the tennis courts will begin late April. C.J. Kersten has requested an estimate from Premier Turf for needed work on the Joe Martin Field. Shepaug Athletic Director, Matt Perachi, has requested use of the soccer field behind the Pavilion for the fall, and possibly some practices in the spring.
* **Activities/Events:** Jeff Hammond reported that following an initial approval to use the Shepaug pool for spring swim lessons, he has been informed that his request has been denied due to the construction at the school. In addition, he has been informed that the Town will be charged $600/week for use of the Washington Primary School for the Summer Recreation program that is now held there. Jeff, and First Selectman Mark Lyon, will pursue this further and request this charge not be made.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Election of Officers: Motion:** To elect C.J. Kersten as Chairman and Joe Fredlund and Sheila Anson as Vice Chairmen for the coming year. By Ray Reich, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.
* **Future Concerts:** Jeff Hammond reported that Flashback will not be able to play this year at the 4th of July picnic at the Pavilion but has some leads on other bands. The Regulators will be playing at the Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 13, 2019. The mobile pub is lined up for the Festival and the Commissioners agreed to reserve the train. River of Dreams (Billy Joel Tribute band) has been reserved for September 7, 2019 at the Town Hall.
* **Boat Ramp:** Will be opening, Saturday, April 20, 2019 for spring hours. Staffing with the same personnel is set for the season.
* **COORDINATOR’S REPORT:** Jeff Hammond reported the following:

Casino Trip: Our trip to MGM Springfield went well though we only had 12 people on the bus. With that said, I have gotten approval to use the senior van for a more affordable way to transport the small group of folks still interested in the casino trips. This also opens the door for other trips that may utilize the bus.

Spring Swim Lessons: With much frustration and disappointment, I have had to cancel swim lessons. After initially being put on the schedule with no reason to expect denial, the school informed me of their decision 2 weeks after submitting my request. They cited construction work.

River Walk Pavilion: The Pavilion is now open for the season. Due to scheduled activities and weather outlook, we were able to open the Pavilion a couple weeks early. Jesse has begun spring cleanup and we are working on a to-do list with Liz to spruce up the Pavilion.

Concerts: I have secured The Wool Hats String Band for the June 7th concert. The Facebook event is already gathering some good attention. This concert with be in conjunction with the WBA’s First Friday activities and newly reimagined community day. I am unclear on what activities will be involved for that but more info with follow.

Flashback will be unavailable to play this year on the 4th of July. I am considering Raging Gracefully since they were unavailable for our June concert but would welcome any other suggestions or requests.

Saturday, September 7th would be the day I am planning on bringing back River of Dreams.

The Regulators are on board to play at the Harvest Festival again this year. After much back and forth, the Harvest Festival will be on Sunday, October 13th of Columbus Day Weekend.

Summer Rec Outlook: In my discussion with Don O’Leary from Region 12, it was also mentioned that they are looking into, and planning on charging Parks & Rec for the use of school facilities for all summer camps. In the past, we have been responsible for paying custodial overtime if our camps or activities run outside the regular schedule. They are now looking to charge a flat rate per day/week regardless of the timeframe. Initial estimates are looking like it may cost $600/week for our summer rec program. I am not ok with this and have taken steps to avoid these ridiculous charges.

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.

* **Shed:** C.J. Kersten will look into having a small shed installed (perhaps as a Senior Project) at the Joe Martin Field for storage of rakes, bases, etc. Jeff Hammond would like the Commission to begin thinking of expanding the existing equipment shed at the Pavilion in the future.

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

* **Good luck** to all the Spring sports teams.
* **Reminder**: **Fisherman’s Breakfast**, Saturday, April 13, 2019, 5:30-11:30a.m. – New Preston Firehouse and **Trivia Night** Saturday, April 13, 2019. 7:00p.m.– Bryan Memorial Town Hall.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:36p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk