

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
February 10, 2020

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

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

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

MOTION: To add subsequent business not already on the Agenda. By Ray Reich, seconded by Tim Cook.
Discussion: Election of Officers. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **River Walk Pavilion – New Maintenance Building:** Jeff Hammond reported he has met with the Buildings and Properties Commission and they have supported the idea of a new maintenance building. Jeff has gotten two estimated for a 14 x 40 building. The estimated cost is \$13,000-\$14,000 plus the cost of electrical work. The building will be placed beyond the far soccer goal behind the Pavilion, parallel to the Walking Path just before entering the wooded area. Funding will be discussed with the Board of Selectmen at next week's budget workshop.
- **Fire and Ice Festival:** Due to the cost of the ice, the Commissioners have decided not to do the ice sculpting demonstration this year. However, the Festival is scheduled for Saturday, February 29th at the Town Hall and there will be a showing of the movie "Frozen II". More details will be available on the Town's website and the Parks and Rec Facebook page. As the first **Winter Festival** (several years ago) was so successful due to the amount of snow, Ray Reich suggested that the Commission put together the pieces and be ready on short notice if there is a snow storm. All agreed.
- **Budget Reminder:** Members of the Commission will meet with the Selectmen next week to discuss budget requests for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- **Pickle Ball:** Jeff has looked into equipment needed for the pickle ball courts at the Washington Primary School tennis courts. **Motion:** To approve an expenditure not to exceed \$2500 to purchase nets, rackets and balls for pickle ball. By Tim Cook, seconded by Sheila Anson and unanimously approved.
- **Dugout roof repair:** The roof on the home team dugOut at the Ted Alex field was damaged in a wind storm. Materials will be purchased and reconstruction will occur by the end of March.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **July Concert:** This year's summer concert will be held on July 25th at the Pavilion, 5:00-8:00p.m. National Iron Bank is sponsoring the band – Frankie Justin. Parks and Rec has secured the band Country Steel to open. There will be food trucks and a lemonade truck and pizza. More details to follow.

- **Swim Lessons and Summer Rec:** Jeff has not been able to find an instructor for Spring Swim as of this meeting. Suggestions were made for possible contacts. As the construction at Shepaug is mostly completed, Summer Rec will again be held at the Shepaug campus and the pool will be available for Summer Swim Team. Jill Linder will coach and also be available as a lifeguard for Summer Rec. Jeff has placed an ad in the Playbill for the Dramalites Spring production for Summer Swim Team. Carrie Rowe suggested Jeff contact the director of the new AGSTEM program at Shepaug to inquire about a possible “Farm Program” for Summer Rec.
- **Beach House:** The Papsins have moved into their new home. The position of Beach House Tenant and Caretaker was advertised. Several applications were received and following interviews, the Commission has recommended Ralph Averill for the position. The Board of Selectmen approved their selection at last week’s meeting.
- **Election of Officers: Motion:** To maintain the same slate of officers: C.J. Kersten as Chairman, Joe Fredlund and Sheila Anson as Vice-Chairmen. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Alice Demeo and unanimously approved.

COORDINATOR’S REPORT: Jeff Hammond submitted the following report:
Fire and Ice: A Winter Festival

As discussed via email, with the majority in agreement, we will not be moving forward with this festival as originally planned. The cost of having an ice sculptor was decided to be too much for an untested, small event. That said, one of the other aspects of this event was potentially going to be a movie in the main hall for the kids. The plan was to possibly show Frozen 2, assuming it would be coming out on DVD around then. As it turns out, the release date is February 25th. Since we are not doing the ice demo, I propose we switch to date to Saturday the 29th and just have a movie night. We can make popcorn as well.

River Walk Park

Buildings and Properties has approved the purchase of a new maintenance building for next fiscal year. After getting a couple quotes, that information and suggestions regarding location were passed off to them. After various considerations, they have decided it best to place the new building at the far end of the soccer field near the wooded area and parallel to the walking path. This was one of my original location options. I have also researched pickle ball court equipment and will be submitting that with the proposed budget.

Swim Lessons

Still nothing to show here. I made contact via email with the prospective instructor. She said she was very interested in doing the lessons and has said she would call be to discuss details further. After a couple follow up emails, I have yet to hear back from her.

Summer Program Outlook

I am waiting for confirmation from the school, but it looks like we will be heading back to Shepaug for summer camp. With the pool now available, after a two-year hiatus, I am also looking to bring back summer swim team. I have been working with Brian and Jill to sort out preliminary details for both programs.

July Concert Event

We had previously set a tentative date of July 11th for a concert alternative to a July 4th activity. After working with Justin Spring and National Iron Bank, that date has changed to July 25th. The event will be at the Pavilion and run from approx. 5-8pm. It will consist of an opening act (Country Steel), paid for by Parks and Rec and a main act (Frankie Justin), sponsored by National Iron Bank. Lucky Dog food truck will be on site as well as another trailer serving fresh squeezed lemonade and pizza provided by Washington Pizza.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: CJ. Kersten reported:

- **Expression of Sympathy on the passing of Jack Muckstadt:** Jack was a longtime resident in Washington who was involved in numerous organizations and is best known to Parks and Rec for starting the 4th of July Fireworks in Town.
- **Expression of Sympathy on the passing of Gary Fitzherbert:** Gary was also a long time resident of Town who was involved in numerous organizations and Boards and Commissions. He served on the Parks and Rec Commission for several years.
- **Expression of Sympathy on the passing of Donald Camp:** Don was known to many in Town for his involvement with the American legion and his love of Shepaug Baseball, starting with Little League.
- **Happy Birthday to Whitney Ryan** on February 14th!

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:44p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk