

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
June 8, 2020

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

Present: Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Tim Cook, Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Alice Demeo, Sheila Anson, Whitney Ryan.

Coordinator Jeff Hammond; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Visitor: First Selectman Jim Brinton.

Call to Order: Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **River Walk Maintenance Building:** Jeff Hammond reported he met with Harry Wyant and confirmed the location of the septic. He has completed the Health Department application for construction of the maintenance building. Once that is approved he will complete the necessary Land Use applications. The cost of the building from the Barn Yard has increased by \$5,000. He will speak with them again and is also waiting to hear back from Kloter Farms.
- **Boat Ramp:** Running smoothly. Presently open Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays. Will resume summer hours the week of June 20th: Friday through Monday 6:00a.m.-sunset; Tuesday through Thursday 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
- **Summer Concert:** Following discussion it was decided to cancel the July concert due to social gathering protocols due to COVID-19.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Reopening's: Ball Fields & Tennis Courts:** Open now for gatherings of up to 25 people. No formal tournament games, players must provide own equipment. **Pavilion:** As of June 20th, bathrooms will be open early morning until evening. They will be cleaned once a day. Rentals may be scheduled for gatherings of less than 25 people, less than 50 after June 20th. There will be no charge but a \$25.00 deposit will be required as well as insurance or a waiver. The kitchen, tables and chairs will not be available for use. As a sterile environment cannot be guaranteed, renters will be advised to use the Pavilion at their own risk. **Beach:** The beach is scheduled to open June 20th with attendance being limited a number that will be set at a later date. Staff is ready and have been advised of protocol. Only one guard at a time will be seated in the chair. Other staff that may be walking through the grounds will be required to wear masks.
- **4th of July 5K:** Due to the number of runners that attend and the inability to socially distance, the 2020 5K race has been cancelled.
- **Swanson Foundation:** As a result of the annual Softball Tournament having to be cancelled due to COVID-19, the Foundation will distribute (curbside) their famous egg sandwiches – free of charge – on July 11th at the River Walk Pavilion. Check the Town's website for details.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Jeff Hammond reported the following:

Boat Ramp: The ramp has been running smoothly. We will transition to summer hours and be open 7 days a week starting Saturday, June 20th

Beach: We are looking to reopen the beach on Saturday, June 20th. Beach staff has been made aware.

River Walk Park: I anticipate reopening the Pavilion as of June 20th as well. A decision will need to be made as to whether we start renting the space again or just open the bathrooms.

Ball fields and tennis courts are being reopened. We will not be waiting until the 20th. Current guidance allows groups up to 25 people outdoors. As long as we are not providing "shared" equipment, folks are free to play casually. At this time, we are still not allowing structured play such as leagues.

Tot lots at River Walk Park and Nick Platt Field will remain closed.

Summer Rec: After surveying parents and staff, it was clear that there was a lot of uneasiness around camp. The majority of parents that responded said they would not send their kids if camp was offered. That information, combined with staff limitations and adherence to current guidelines culminated in the decision to cancel camp this summer.

Concerts: The July and September concerts are officially still scheduled. As we get closer to the July concert, which I expect to draw a decent crowd, we will decide if we are able to have it. Based on previous years and what I hope State guidelines will be by September, it is my hope to still offer the September concert.

- **Recognition of Whitney Ryan:** Whitney Ryan who has served on the Commission with unwavering dedication since 2011, will be moving to Virginia as she and Fran take over "Headmaster and Mrs." duties at a private school. The Commission toasted and thanked Whitney for her service as First Selectman Jim Brinton presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Town.
- **Thank you to First Selectman Jim Brinton:** The Commission took the presence of Jim at this evening's meeting to thank him for a job well done since his taking office – particularly through this coronavirus pandemic.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:23p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk