

January 13, 2014

Present: Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Tim Cook, Joe Fredlund, Ray Reich, Whitney Ryan, Laura Martin
Coordinator Lisa Easter; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Guest: Erin Brinton.

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

The Commissioners and Coordinator held a Budget Workshop which was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

No motions were made and no actions taken.

Call to Order:

Chairman C.J. Kersten called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the December 9, 2013 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

By Ray Reich, seconded by Whitney Ryan and unanimously approved.

Visitor:

* Erin Brinton:

Erin attended this evenings meeting to discuss a proposal to conduct Wildlife and Flora Classes. She would like to hold these classes (for adults and children) in Steep Rock and other locations around Town - River Walk, Shepaug School, etc. There would be a fee that would cover Erin's costs. She is asking merely for the Commission's support and sponsorship. Ray Reich, a Steep Rock Trustee, explained to Erin that SRA has an Outreach Committee and has begun offering various programs in Town. Erin's proposal may fit into something they would be interested in supporting. Ray suggested Erin contact Executive Director Steve Law to discuss and also offered to accompany Erin to meet with Steve personally. As Steep Rock's programs are offered at no charge, Erin's could be presented as sponsored by Washington's Parks and Rec Commission, asking permission to use Steep Rock property. If Steep Rock agrees, and Parks and Rec agrees, it was explained to Erin that she would need to give 5% of fees collected to the Commission. Ray and Erin will keep the Commissioners informed as to their progress.

* Martha Shade, who happened into the meeting room, and who will be retiring by the end of next week, was thanked for her seventeen years of service to the Town of Washington as Land Use Secretary. Martha's conscientious and pleasant nature will be missed by all who have had the pleasure of working with her!

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Beach and Boat Launch:**

Ray Reich reported he has been communicating with Beach Caretakers Chris and Leah Papsin. There are three remaining old picnic tables that he and they would like to have replaced with new ones that match the new ones purchased a couple of years ago. They would also like to meet with the Beach Director, Jeff Cox, prior to the beginning of the next beach season to discuss job responsibilities. Whitney Ryan also suggested a "job description"/policy be written for the lifeguards. There was discussion about replacing the lifeguard stand. At the next meeting, the Commissioners will decide and vote on an amount to replace the picnic tables, the lifeguard stand and possibly the purchase of a bike rack. Hank Vallely, Boat Ramp Manager, has submitted his report for the 2013 season. A copy of which is attached to these minutes.

*** River Walk Park:**

Lisa Easter had contacted New Milford Sign and received an estimate to replace the signs for the Ted Alex, Joe Martin and Dick Ayer fields - \$4933. They will be green and white and made of a PVC material - painted and finished with a protectant-they will require no maintenance. The Commissioners also asked that 18" x 18" signs be made for fields 3 and 4. Motion: To approve up to \$5500 for replacement of the ball field signs and the addition of signs 3 and 4. Monies will come from Little League and Field Upkeep. By Tim Cook, seconded by Laura Martin and unanimously approved. Lisa received a report from United Alarm re: the number of alarm calls - no reason given for the number of false alarms. C.J. Kersten will follow up on acquiring the windscreens for the tennis courts. Dave Swanson has submitted an estimate for field maintenance of the ball fields - approximately \$7200.00 or \$900 for eight months. Fertilization will be billed separately. C.J. will discuss further with Dave. C.J. will also speak with Highway Director, Kevin Smith, regarding the possibility of mowing the fields twice a week when necessary. Joe Fredlund has asked Jay Combs at the Washington Supply for estimates to replace hardware in the restrooms of the Pavilion. They have not yet been received. Lisa will speak with Wes Gladding, Groundskeeper, re: his hours and need to keep track and approve.

*** Holiday in the Depot:**

All Commissioners agreed the evening went very well. Joe Fredlund asked if the Town and/or Parks and Rec was paying for the additional police coverage that was present. The Town will not be paying - she will check with the Washington Business Association. C.J. Kersten thanked the Commission for the honor of choosing him and his family to light the Town Hall Christmas tree. A special thank you to Santa for visiting and speaking with all the children!

*** 2014-2015 Budget:**

The Commissioners discussed budget figures at their Workshop at 6:00 p.m. Town Treasurer, Linda McGarr, has asked for the Commission to decide if it would like to renew the CD in the amount of approximately \$21,000 for another two years. It was decided to renew it for three months if possible.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported the following:

*** Family Free Swim:**

will be held Monday, January 20th from 1:30-3:30p.m. Rocky Tomlinson will be there for security, Meghan, Tom and Travis Morse will lifeguard. Laura Martin will attend as the Parks and Rec representative. A custodian must be hired at a cost of \$72.18 an hour. There will be no charge for the participants.

* How Cool is That?!

Science Camp - will end January 31st. The instructor may give a spring program and will again do an afternoon camp this summer.

* Holiday in the Depot:

Went very well. Santa listened to approximately 180 children's wishes! The events in the Town Hall ended by 8:30p.m.

* Master's Swim Class:

Scheduled to begin January 22nd for 12 weeks with John Moisan as Program Manager and Dominic Gillen as Coach. 20 people have expressed interest to date.

* Morning Swim:

March 1st will mark the 1st year of having paid security personnel for Morning Swim. We have charged \$25/month for participation. Costs are being covered and Lisa is suggesting lowering the charge to \$20/month. Lisa will send a letter to those who are participating notifying them of this change.

* Working with Warren Rec:

Don Murphy from Warren Parks and Rec has contacted Lisa about sharing trips with them. He is currently arranging for a trip for a Yankees vs. Red Sox game (we're in) and a follow up Yankees game to be announced. Cost is yet to be determined. They are also arranging a trip on May 3rd to see West Point's Dress Parade which will include a guided bus tour of West Point and a lunch at the Thayer House. Cost is \$70 per person.

* Donation Requests:

The Washington Primary School PTO has requested a donation of \$200 toward a tri-town PTO sponsored event - possibly a dance for the kids. Roxbury has agreed to do this. Parks and Rec has traditionally given Steep Rock Association a donation of \$250 in thanks for our relationship and working together on the 4th of July Road Race etc. Motion: To approve the \$200 donation to the WPS PTO and \$250 donation to Steep Rock. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

* Donation:

A generous donation of \$1000 in memory of the Decourcy's has been received. The Commissioners suggested it be put into Field Upkeep and be used to help offset the cost of the new signs at the ball fields.

* Excel Course:

Motion: To approve Lisa Easter's enrollment in an Excel Course. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

* Babysitting Course:

Scheduled for January 30 and 31. More details to follow.

* New Laptop:

Lisa will get a price on replacing her laptop computer and it will be discussed further at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Connecticut Trails Day:

Will be held on June 7th and 8th. There is a deadline of May 3rd for registering any information in their booklet and for publicity. There was discussion of asking Erin Brinton to present a Wildlife and Flora program at River Walk.

* Morning Swim:

See Coordinator's Report.

* Pool Table:

There was concern about the condition of the pool table following the propane explosion in the basement of the Town Hall and the subsequent construction. The Commissioners will take a look after this evening's meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

C.J. Kersten reported the following:

* Commissioner Vacancy:

Several suggestions were made for possible new members to the Commission. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

* Thank you to all who helped make Holiday in the Depot a success and great evening for the townspeople.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene, Clerk