

November 19, 2012

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

Present: Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Tim Cook, Whitney Ryan, Ray Reich, Laura Martin, Darren Dutcher; Coordinator Lisa Easter, Clerk Mary Anne Greene,
Visitors: Hank Valley, Michael Gorra.

Call to Order:

Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To appr

ove the minutes of the October 9, 2012 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

By Ray Reich, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

* Hank Valley, Boat Ramp Manager:

Hank has submitted his written report for the season, which is attached to these minutes filed with the Town Clerk. Overall, ramp operation went smoothly. New inspectors have been trailed – friendly attitude and polite mannerisms with the public was stressed. Hank reported there are very few problems with people being turned away because of invasive found on their boats, etc. Inspectors have been instructed if anyone becomes angry to contact Hank first and if necessary, the police. This did not need to be done. Hank also explained that the Lake Waramaug Authority, as per the Lake Waramaug Agreement, requires documentation regarding the number of boats using the ramp, including the number moored on the Lake for the season, which are delivered by the area marinas. The reports are then handed into the Resident Trooper's Office. He has been informed that some information is missing and he has requested the master list be given to him in order for him to determine what is missing. He has not yet received the report back from the Resident Trooper. He has spoken with Paul Frank of the Lake Waramaug Authority who will remind boat owners that live on the Lake that all necessary information must be provided by them and given to the marinas prior to delivery of their boats. Following discussion, it was determined that prior to reports being handed in to the Resident Trooper's office, Hank will make a copy for himself and one for Lisa Easter. Hank was pleased to inform the Commissioners that the same staff will be returning next year.

* Michael Gorra, Shepaug Youth Hockey:

Michael attended this evening's meeting to thank the Commission and the Town for its many years of support and to again request that Parks and Rec sponsor this year's Family Skate held at the Gunnery rink and the Skills Clinic held at Rumsey Hall's rink. Michael explained the charges for programs, how much is used for fee reductions, equipment vouchers, etc. The WPS PTO continues to have a snack bar at the Family Skate on Sunday evenings which generates approximately \$800-\$1000. Gunnery has not charged for ice time for the Family Skate and will

continue this practice; Rumsey has graciously given a discount on the ice rental for the Clinic, which allows the program to break even. Motion: To approve sponsorship of the Family Skate Program and Skills Clinic by the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Beach & Boat Launch:**

See attached report from Hank Vallely and also above under “Visitors”. The flag has been ordered for the Beach House. Caretakers and Beach House tenants are doing a great job – new plantings at the boat ramp are doing well, the hedge has recently been trimmed, etc.

Motion:

To approve an expenditure of \$100 for a gift certificate from Nine Main for Chris and Leah Papsin in appreciation for their good work and as a congratulations on their marriage.

By Tim Cook, seconded by Whitney Ryan and unanimously approved.

*** River Walk Park:**

Tim Cook has met with Groundskeeper Wes Gladding. The bathroom floors, dugouts, shed have all been power washed. If the weather allows he will try to get some of the painting done – if not he will do in the Spring. His seasonal groundskeeper duties will be ending Thanksgiving weekend. Liz Gugel has also done a great job as Pavilion Caretaker - keeping it in good order, meeting with renters, etc. She has closed the Pavilion for the season. Dave Swanson has done the work on the baseball fields – clearing them of weeds, etc. C.J. Kersten will speak with Dave to determine if he would be interested in being hired to maintain the fields. Tim Cook reported that Gary Fitzherbert has offered to spearhead fundraising for the work on the fields that could amount to approximately \$400,000. The Commissioners asked Tim to provide them with a list of the improvements, etc. prior to starting this fundraising effort. Everything Botanical did some plantings and trimming of trees and bushes around the Pavilion and has submitted an estimate for maintenance for the future. This will be discussed further at a later date. Thank you to Tim Cook who repaired the roof on the visitor’s dugout at the Ted Alex Field.

*** Holiday in the Depot:**

See Coordinator’s Report.

*** Ski Trip:**

See Coordinator’s Report.

COORDINATOR’S REPORT:

Coordinator Lisa Easter reported the following:

*** Fall Swim Lessons:**

a schedule switch needed to be done for the Friday swim lessons and the October 30 Tuesday swim lessons needed to be cancelled due to early closing due to snow – it was rescheduled for 11/20. Everyone was notified by email or phone.

*** Holiday in the Depot:**

December 14th: the Fire Marshal has given approval to use 1/3 to 1/2 of the Main Hall. In the Hall will be Santa, the WVFD Auxiliary helping to mail letters and sell their annual ornament. Gunn Jr. Library will be having a craft for the children to make while they wait to see Santa. Washington Montessori students will be singing on the front steps of the Town Hall for Santa's arrival, Gunnery Troubadours will be caroling throughout the Depot. Whitney Ryan will check to see if Rumsey carolers would like to be on the hay wagon, which will be giving rides through the Depot. Parks and Rec and the Washington Business Association will be putting together a joint press release. Pencils and glow necklaces have been ordered. Lisa is looking for artificial Christmas trees to create a screen in the Main Hall.

* Regional Ski Trip:

The ski trip discussed at last month's meeting has been cancelled.

* Website:

Lisa has created a website for Parks & Rec: <http://washingtonctparksandrec.shutterfly.com>.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Steep Rock Donation:

Motion:

To donate \$250.00 to Steep Rock Association in gratitude for the long-standing relationship with them.

By Tim Cook, seconded by Laura Eanes and unanimously approved.

* 2013 Calendar of Meetings:

Motion:

To approve the 2013 meeting dates as follows: January 7, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 6, June 17, July 15, August-no meeting, September 9, October 7, November 4 and December 9.

By Sheila Anson, seconded by Laura Eanes and unanimously approved.

The public is reminded to confirm meeting dates and times by calling the Parks and Rec office at 860-868-1519.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

C.J. Kersten and Commissioners reported and added the following:

* Speedy Recovery to Joe Fredlund.

* Happy Birthday to Laura Martin.

* Wedding Congratulations to Chris and Leah Papsin.

* Field Hockey Excellence Congratulations to Linea Quist.

Field Hockey Championship Congratulations to the Gunnery.

* Upcoming events:

1) Slices with Santa: 12/1/12-Washington Depot firehouse – all proceeds go to assist needy

families.

2) Washington Montessori Polar Plunge 12/2/12- Lake Waramaug 10:00a.m. - sponsor 6 children from Waterbury to attend the Community School.

3) Sing Out – new non-profit made up of children from all the schools in the area – led by Alicia Evans. Look for performance dates.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m., as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk