

November 8, 2010

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

Present:

Chairman Sheila Anson, Commissioners Ray Reich, C.J. Kersten, Joe Fredlund, Holly Haas, Tim Cook, Lou Magnoli; Coordinator Lisa Easter; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Call to Order:

Chairman Anson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the October 19, 2010 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Holly Haas, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

Visitor:

Jake Glaser- Senior Project – ski trip to Vermont:

Jake explained that he was organizing Shepaug's annual ski trip to Stowe. A \$1500 deposit is needed for the Inn where 20-30 students and chaperones will stay. In year's past, Roxbury's Parks and Recreation has generously given the deposit for the trip but is not able to do the entire amount this year. Jake is requesting \$500 from Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington. The Commissioners thanked Jake for his presentation and advised they would discuss his request later in the meeting and get back to him as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS:

Beach/Boat Launch:

1) Contact Person for Beach Caretakers:

For those not present at last month's meeting held at the Beach, Sheila explained that Caretakers David Lyon and Jess Pullara requested having one contact person to whom they could go to address concerns, ask questions, etc. and who could also provide direction and supervision to them. After discussion it was decided to ask Selectman Nick Solley to be this person both as a member of the Board of Selectmen and as a member of the Town's Building & Property Commission. Sheila will speak with Nick and invite him to the December meeting.

River Walk:

1) Fireplace Plaque:

Larry Cable will install the plaque and a dedication will take place in the spring inviting the Village Improvement Society and appropriated donors. 2) Walker's Luncheon:

A successful event thanks to all who "pulled it together" and was attended by the walkers, town hall employees and town highway department employees. Thanks to Estelle Bronson for her idea, to "Chef" Gary Alex, and to all who attended and enjoyed. It was suggested to hold this twice next year :)! 3)

Miscellaneous:

The bathrooms, etc. will be shut down on Saturday 11/15 in order to accommodate Gunnery's last game. John Meeker has found two bikes that were in the river. Depending on their condition they may be donated to the Police explorers or taken to the dump. The new flag is up at the ball fields – thank you to Lou Magnoli, Sam Secor and the American Legion. Tim Cook and Gary Alex will check the light that illuminates it. It was suggested that a calendar be placed on the message board at the Pavilion that not only indicates dates of games but also marks when the Pavilion is rented.

Five Year Plan:

This will be discussed at the December meeting. Sheila asked all Commissioners to come prepared to

discuss.

Holiday in the Depot:

Daryl Wright has spoken with Lisa Easter regarding replacing the lights on the Town Hall Christmas Tree with LED lights that will last longer, save energy, etc. Motion: To purchase new lights for the Christmas Tree for a cost of approximately \$500. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Tim Cook. Discussion included the need to buy new lights each year, storage of them, etc. The Fire Department will string the tree. If there are enough funds left in the Holiday In the Depot line item of the General Fund the bill will be paid from there – if there are not enough remaining monies, the balance will be taken from the Parks and Rec checking account – Miscellaneous. Cindy Brissett is all set for taking pictures of children with Santa. Slices with Santa will be held separately on December 17th at J.D. Tuckers. Lisa Easter has spoken with Mari Acton regarding the placement of the Angel Choir. Horse and wagon is reserved. The Republican Town Committee will have a table selling Washington memorabilia and the Town Hall Gang will have a table taking donations for the weekly soldier boxes.

Bocce Courts:

Joe Fredlund has spoken with Terry Tiernan (who asked about having Bocce Courts in Town). Terry will get prices together, plans, etc. and speak with Gary Alex – Groundskeeper. Placement, if appropriate, will need to be determined.

Bowling Alley:

Lisa will follow up with Steve Sordi re: his expertise on re-finishing.

Personnel Sub-Committee:

Sheila has spoken with Kathy Gollow who will be a part of this committee along with C.J. Kersten and Lou Magnoli. The Commissioners have all agreed that discussions should take place annually with the Parks & Rec Coordinator, Groundskeeper, Beach Caretakers, Summer Rec Director and Beach Director. This will be an opportunity to discuss concerns, review job descriptions, etc.

4th of July Police Coverage:

Ray Reich explained to the Commission that the bill from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety has been received for coverage at the fireworks – approximately \$8400 which is up considerably from previous years. There was discussion as to how to possibly lower this - more constables – from each of the 3 towns in the region, shorter hours that the grounds are open, less passes sold at an increased price, fundraiser? Discussion will continue over the next several months.

Financial Report showing the income and expenses for the programs for the month was reviewed. Discussion about Summer Recreation operating at a loss this summer due to increase in bus costs, lower enrollment, etc. and possible solutions.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported the following:

Fireplace plaque:

See above under River Walk.

Karate:

Instructors would like to offer an adult self-defense seminar in January. Thank you to USA Martial Arts for once again offering to do a food drive for the Town's Holiday Baskets distributed at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Adult Men's Basketball:

Hugo DeVoe is again willing to run this program at the Washington Primary School. They will need to

coordinate with the Shepaug Basketball Association for use of the facility on Monday and Wednesday evenings. The cost is \$25 per week for the season.

NEW BUSINESS:

Basketball:

All age groups K-8 are now under Shepaug Baseball Association – more unified for registrations, etc. Basketball, baseball and soccer are now handled outside Parks and Rec. Working well.

Jake Glaser Senior Project request:

Commissioners discussed Jake's request and it was unanimously determined not to fund his \$500 request based on the policy that was set several years ago. If a request was approved, it was felt that it would open the door for others and all would not be able to be funded. When the initial policy was set, a letter was written to Gene Horrigan principal of Shepaug High School. Sheila will write a letter to the present principal Kim Gallo explaining Washington's Parks and Rec position.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Sheila Anson reported the following:

Parks and Rec Commissioners adopting a family for Christmas:

It was unanimously agreed to adopt a family for the Christmas Holiday Baskets. Mary Anne Greene will assign a family – commissioners will purchase presents and they will be wrapped at the December meeting.

Rotary Volunteer of the Year:

Congratulations to Claire Wilber, Emergency Services and Wayne Hileman, Town Government.

Congratulation to Katie McGarr and the Washington Citizens Scholarship for the thank you card that has been sent and well received by the community. Thank you to Linc Cornell who started this Foundation that has assisted so many in pursuing their education.

Congratulations to Kristen Haas and Liz Greene on their recent engagements!

Congratulations to Sarah Fredlund for being named MVP in the League Field Hockey Tournament!

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m., as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk