

## December 11, 2006

**Present:** Chairman Sheila Anson, Joan Gauthey, Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Holly Haas, C.J. Kersten, Tim Cook, Coordinator Lisa Easter, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Minutes: Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 13, 2006 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Holly Haas, seconded by Joan Gauthey and unanimously approved.

**WELCOME: Michael Gorra** attended this evening's meeting to discuss the Family Skate program held at the Gunnery rink on Sunday evenings. The Gunnery has donated the ice time for the past 33 years for this activity. Michael will be speaking with the Gunnery business office this week to finalize this year's arrangement and has asked the Parks and Rec Commission to "sponsor" the program. It would be covered under the Town's insurance. The fee was discussed and it was agreed to charge \$5 per person per session or \$100 per family for the season. It was suggested that the 5% of the fees that normally comes to the Commission be donated to the Bunker Burr Fund which provides financial aid to children in the Youth Hockey program (tuition and/or equipment). **Motion:** The Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Washington will sponsor the Washington/Gunnery Family Skate program with the understanding that the cost will be \$5 per person per session or \$125 per family for the season and 5% of the fees will be donated to the Bunker Burr Fund. By Tim Cook, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**1. River Walk Park:** Lisa Easter reported that the Pavilion has been closed up for the season. Larry is occasionally working extra hours to do some "finishing up" - repaired a window that blew open, cleaning up leaves, taking down tennis nets etc. Lisa received an email from a Shepaug senior regarding a request to hold a senior project softball game at the fields and Pavilion. It was suggested she attend a meeting to discuss.

**2. Beach Boat Launch:** Ray Reich reported that things seem to be moving along on the launch project. Meetings have occurred with the DEP, First Selectman Sears, engineer Dave Wilson, etc. Necessary permits have been applied for and/or approved. It is Ray's impression that monies (not coming from the State) that are needed to complete the project will be requested in next year's budget but will not be part of the Parks and Rec Commission's budget. Ray then spoke of the Boathouse which will be the 2nd phase of the larger project. He has had a meeting of people interested in this and has explained it will need to accommodate the rowers, the police boat, the air boat and Hank's equipment. Plans and finances for this have not yet been finalized.

**3. Playgrounds:** Lisa explained that the bid was awarded to Ulti Play Playgrounds and Equipment. The total amount of monies budgeted was \$4022 shy of the total bid amount for the River Walk Tot Lot and the Nick Platt Field playgrounds. Village Improvement Society has generously agreed to donate \$2000 and the Parks and Rec account will fund the remaining \$2022. **Motion:** To approve an expenditure of \$2022 towards the total cost of the playground equipment for the River Walk Tot Lot and the Nick Platt Field. By Holly Haas, seconded by Joan Gauthey and unanimously approved. The equipment should be arriving early January, will be stored in trailers and community builds will occur in March and April. Eliza Palucci will chair the Depot project and Holly Shannon will chair in New Preston. All Hands On Deck! Great Job, Lisa!!

**4. Basketball:** Tim Cook reported there are two travel teams - the girls have won their first game! Reminder - fundraiser on Sunday 12/17 at 3:00p.m. - Shepaug High School - South Kent vs. Mt. Zion.

The proceeds from the gate will be divided between the South Kent School and the Shepaug Basketball Association. Lisa reported there will be a Hot Shot Contest on January 20, 2006 from 1:00-3:00 at Shepaug for 9-15 year old boys and girls.

**5. Holiday In the Depot:** All who attended reported a successful night. The new owners of the Washington Supply lit the Christmas Tree. Thanks to the Washington Business Association, Mari Acton, Lisa Easter, John Gueniat, David Yaunsem and Cindy Brissett and last but not least...Santa Claus!

**6. Bus Trips:** January 14th - Westchester Dinner Theatre to see "The Full Monty". Cost is \$90 per person.

**7. Capital Budget:** Sheila asked the commissioners to come up with their wish lists for the general fund and capital budgets and will discuss at the January meeting. (Ideas mentioned-tennis courts, basketball courts, bowling alley resurfacing, kitchen at the pavilion, pavilion septic). Also need to work on the 10-year plan. C.J., Lisa and Mary Anne Greene agreed to meet quarterly to review the financial records.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** See above re: bus trip, playgrounds and Hot Shot Contest.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. 2007 Meeting Dates: Motion:** To approve the 2007 Meeting Dates as follows: January 8, February 12, March 5, April 9, May 14, June 18, July 23, August-no meeting, September 10, October 1, November 5 and December 10. By Tim Cook, seconded by Joan Gauthey and unanimously approved.

**2. River Front Loop:** Joe Fredlund has agreed to represent the Parks and Rec Commission on Dick Sears' committee regarding the clean up and walking path at the old town garage site.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

**1. Connecticut Wildlife Magazine** states "...the coyote had attacked two people in the town of Washington and was killed a few days later in the same general vicinity by a man who defended himself when the coyote approached..." The fame continues!

**2. The Stephen Reich Memorial Bridge in Hidden Valley** is in and the dedication will take place on January 1, 2007 at 1:00p.m. The Parks and Recreation Commission will provide refreshments.

**3. Sarah Fredlund's Alumnae Field Hockey Game (Senior Project)** was a huge success in raising funds for the field hockey score board.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

**NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2007 - 6:00p.m. Budget Discussion; 7:00p.m. Regular Meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk