

## December 6, 2004

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

**Call to Order:** Chairman Anson called the meeting to order at 4:20p.m. The meeting time was changed due to the predicted ice storm for this evening.

**Minutes: Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 8, 2004 meeting as presented and as submitted by Holly Haas. By Tim Cook, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

**I. Visitor: Michael Gorra** attended today's meeting with his detailed proposal for a skating rink at the Pavilion. The specific proposal is attached. Discussion followed going over the details. The rink materials have all been donated. Having the rink would be beneficial in promoting skating as a recreational sport in the Town. Washington residents who participate in the youth hockey program and on the High School Team have been decreasing. Maintenance and safety considerations were also discussed with rules being established re: wearing of helmets, skating at own risk, etc. Expenses would be minimal-\$50-\$100 per year for liner repair kits. Michael has volunteers lined up to monitor and maintain. The Commission thanked Michael for his hard work and advised him they would notify him of their decision. **Motion:** To accept Michael Gorra's proposal for a skating rink at the Pavilion contingent upon checking with the Town's insurance carrier. By Joan Gauthey, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

### II. OLD BUSINESS:

**A. River Walk Pavilion Project:** Sheila reported that she, Lisa Easter and Joe Fredlund were working on setting a date to speak with First Selectman Dick Sears and Board of Finance Chairman Michael Jackson regarding the Commission's fundraising, commitment from the Town, etc. Tentatively set for December 15th. Sheila, Joe, and C. J. Kersten met with two prominent residents of Town who have offered to assist in fundraising efforts-suggesting contacts etc. Joe will be attending the Village Improvement Society meeting in January. The Town has sent a Planning Poll to all postal patrons. The suggestion was made to "write in" the bathroom project.

**B. Beach and Boat Launch:** No report.

**C. Basketball:** Tim Cook reported that games started this past weekend. Except for the clock breaking, all went well. A new clock has been ordered. There was a basketball meeting on December 1st. Lisa asked to be notified when the date of the next meeting was set so that a blood borne pathogen class could be scheduled.

**D. Town Planning Process:** Poll has been sent to all households. The Commission urges completion and return of the poll.

**E. Holiday in the Depot:** All seems to be going well. A new Polaroid camera has been purchased for pictures with Santa. Charter Communication will be filming the arrival of Santa and other "scenes" around the Depot. They have asked for someone to "host" the filming. Ideas were suggested as to who may be appropriate. As for the lighting the tree, Joe Martin and Dave Werkhoven were suggested. Sheila will contact. Discussion followed about getting outside help (Washington Business Association, etc.) to help next year with planning, staffing and cleaning up. This will be reviewed in January.

**F. 2005-2006 Budget:** Will start to work on after the first of the year. Sheila has written a letter to Superintendent of Schools Carmelich re: increasing the amount the Region contributes to the cost of the field upkeep.

**III. COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Lisa reported that trip to Radio City Music Hall and the trip to the Newport Mansions went very well - all who attended had a wonderful time! Kezia Hearn's After School Arts and Crafts class for December has 9 children signed up and she will also be offering a Drawing class. Doug Wilke's next Karate class will begin on December 8 and the Gunnery rink will be open for a Free Skate on December 30th from 4:00-6:00p.m.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. 2005 Meeting Dates:** The 2005 Calendar of Meeting Dates was reviewed and after discussion two changes were made and will be submitted to the Town Clerk.

**B. Open Gym:** Lisa was contacted by Basketball Coach Matt Perachi about our Parks and Recreation Commission sponsoring an "open gym" for basketball players at the Shepaug High School (after normal game and practice hours). There was question as to why this needed to be done and Lisa was asked to have Matt put his request in writing. As a point of information the new backboards are not yet installed - Tim offered to look into this.

**V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Sheila did not have anything to report but wished all a Happy Holiday Season!

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 10, 2005, 7:00p.m. in the Land Use Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Clerk