

March 10, 2003

Chairman, Sheila Anson, called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.

Present: Sheila Anson, Joan Gauthey, Holly Haas, Joe Fredlund, C. J. Kersten, Tim Cook, Ray Reich, Mary Anne Greene, Secretary.

Guests: JoAnne Torti, Vincent Belanger.

(Lisa Easter not able to attend this evening due to her son's skiing accident and possible broken arm.)

Minutes: Motion: To accept the minutes of the February 24, 2003 meeting as presented, by Holly Haas, seconded by Joan Gauthey and unanimously approved.

Guests:

JoAnne Torti, A.S.A.P.: JoAnne, as Director of ASAP, was invited to this evening's meeting to discuss the program and what she sees for the long term as far as Parks and Rec continuing sponsorship, etc. JoAnne handed out the budget for this year as well as past and projected budgets for the next three years. She feels the program is very successful, 235 students enrolled this year being equally divided among primary schools, middle school and high school. All three towns in the Region contribute to the program (the same amount - \$5,000.00). Bridgewater has the least amount of students participating. JoAnne cautioned the commissioners about a figure in next year's budget for \$44,000 for "community project". This will be a project not only involving students from the schools but also children and adults from the community. At present, there are plans to film it, increasing the cost significantly. If the numbers signed up do not support this being done (financially) it will be cut. The question was raised how long she felt would need to be under the auspices of our Rec Commission. She feels should have at least five years completed before going off on it's own. Some of the commissioners questioned the increase in the Director's salary. JoAnne explained it has become more than a full time 40 hour per week job. Commissioners feel we should be able to answer questions regarding the administration of the program, costs, etc. The question was raised as to whether or not the program could be scaled back some as to bring down expenses. JoAnne felt that perhaps some of the high school programs could be done differently - I.e. have some programs once a week instead of a weeklong program. JoAnne also explained that the original idea of ASAP was to give students a chance to excel in the arts and to be able to have something offered to them other than sports. The point was brought up that if a student is in sports it is very difficult for them to participate in this program. JoAnne explained that they do try to offer some on weekends and holidays for the athletes. The bottom line seems to be that the commissioners of the Rec Department would like to be kept up-to-date on the program, it's expenses and perhaps encourage it to become it's own organization.

Vincent Belanger: Vinnie was invited to attend this evening's meeting to help clarify the need for funds for Babe Ruth (14 and 15 year olds, Prep team: 13 year olds), and Connie Mack (16 to 19 year olds) baseball. The \$1500.00 that is in the Town's budget apparently is divided between Shepaug Valley Little League and Senior Baseball (Babe Ruth and Connie Mack). Vinnie explained that the expenses for the Senior Baseball is much greater than this and the \$750.00 probably does not even cover the insurance. They do several fundraisers to meet their costs. At present, Washington gives \$750, Roxbury \$900 and Bridgewater buys the equipment. He has also attempted to get sponsors for the teams. It was suggested that he and Lisa Easter get together and that he give a realistic budget which would indicate income from registration (presently \$60), fundraisers, towns, etc. and expenses that would include league fees, umpires, insurance, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

Beach & Boat Launch: No report.

Comfort Station: Hoping to have the plans from Reese Owens, architect, for Friday's Bowling Alley Open House.

Bowling Alley Opening: All set for this Friday, March 14th. Publicity out in papers, doing flyers. The Town's new Resident Trooper will also be present to meet more of the public. Comfort Station plans will be available for viewing and "challenge" games (with Board of Finance?) will be planned. Food and beverages will be served. Commissioners asked to be there 5:00-5:15p.m.

Parent Council/Youth Association: No report.

ADA: Other than need to post procedures, no report.

Town Garage Property: No report.

Basketball Committee: Joe Fredlund reported that there is a meeting next week - will finalize the season and hope to have committee set for next year.

Insurance Coverage: No report. Need to discuss with Lisa next month. One idea suggested to commission was to raise prices of programs to cover additional insurance costs.

Budget: Sheila Anson reported she has spoken with the Board of Selectmen as they had some questions on the budget. One was the rise in cost of fertilizing the fields. Sheila explained these were the actual figures given in an estimate and will attach that to the budget numbers submitted.

Little League: Tim Cook reported there has been a league meeting. Hopefully the season will start April 23 or 24th. Registrations seem to be a little slow (maybe all the snow?!) but they are beginning to get more in by mail.

Fourth of July: Ray Reich reported that fundraising letters would be going out next week. Commissioners offered to help if he wished with personal notes, etc.

Easter Egg Hunt: Sheila and Lisa made the decision not to do this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lions Club-Defibulator: Lion's Club member Dick Kaylor approached Sheila regarding the Club possibly purchasing a defibulator for the Commission. A member should speak to the Club requesting this. It was decided to thank them and ask if we could possibly wait until the Comfort Station is built as this would be a good spot to keep it (by the playing fields).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: In lieu of Chairman Anson giving a report, Joan Gauthey asked that the minutes show our congratulations to Sheila and to C.J.Kersten for their participation in last weekends Penguin Plunge - a fundraiser for Connecticut Special Olympics! They, along with Phyllis Allen, Meredith Stuart, Andrew Newlin, Mark Lyon, Mike Hinkley and Ken Haverly, were brrrrrave souls for a worthwhile cause. Well done!

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Scheduled for **April 14th but may be changed to April 7th**, as Lisa will be away on the 14th.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene
Secretary

P.S. The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on April 7, 2003 at 7:00p.m. in the Land Use Room.
