

## March 5, 2007

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

**Call to Order:** Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### Minutes:

- Approval of the minutes of the January 8, meeting will be postponed until next month's meeting.
- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the February 12, 2007 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Holly Haas, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- **River Walk Park:** Lisa Easter reported that groundskeeper Larry Cable started today for the season. Relay for Life will be using the Pavilion and grounds on June 1st and 2nd. Parks and Rec has been asked to come up with a "logo" as a sponsoring organization.
- **Beach and Boat Launch:** Sheila Anson asked to be recused from discussion regarding the boat launch because of her position as Town Clerk. Ray Reich reminded the commissioners that there would be a Town Meeting on Thursday, March 8th at 7:30 p.m. to authorize First Selectman Dick Sears to sign the contracts with the State of CT DEP in order for the Town to receive the \$100,000 grant for construction of the boat ramp. Ray reported that there are some that have started a petition requesting that the vote be done by a referendum and there are some that feel the construction of the boat ramp should be postponed and/or not done at all at the Washington beach. Ray prepared a statement to be read at the Town Meeting, if necessary. The Commissioners present were in full agreement of the statement which states: *"For approximately the last ten years, Washington Parks and Recreation Commission has been involved with selectmen of the three towns, the Lake Waramaug Association, the CT DEP (among others) to resolve a difficult question: how to protect Washington's interests in the face of the state's determination to open Lake Waramaug to statewide boaters. The Commission is steadfast in its resolve to help prevent invasive species (inevitable without this agreement) from harming our bathers, discouraging rowers, and decreasing property values. We feel the current signed understanding with the state DEP is the best compromise available. Any delay could nullify this complicated and delicate agreement, allowing the state to take unilateral action, which would be disastrous for our bathers, rowers, campers, homeowners. The Commission feels any one-sided, eleventh-hour tampering with this unique agreement would fail to recognize the delicacy of the many issues negotiated, would be shortsighted, and would be harmful to our town."*
- **Playgrounds:** Lisa Easter reported that the community builds of the new playgrounds at the Tot Lot and Nick Platt Field will be held on March 30 and 31 and April 27 and 28 respectively. Volunteers have been recruited and more may be needed and are always welcome! Lunch will be provided by the Commission . The Town's highway department personnel will also be on hand.
- **Basketball:** Tim Cook reported that the regular season is almost over. Travel teams finishing up in tournaments this weekend. The end of the season meeting will be held next week. Tim also notified the commissioners that new board members would be needed for the next season for

the Shepaug Basketball Association.

- **Bowling Alley:** Lisa Easter reported that she has contacted Rich Borland for an estimate to refinish the alleys but had not yet heard back. Tim offered to contact him.
- **Little League:** Tim Cook reported that the mailing that went to all postal patrons regarding the new Shepaug Little League Association cost approximately \$1300. Registrations are coming in at a good pace. Tim attended a district meeting and reported on the strict guidelines that are now in place that deal with safety, equipment, fields, training of coaches and volunteers, etc. All requirements need to be met in order to hold and/or participate in tournaments.
- **Roundtable Discussion:** Sheila Anson reported that she attended the Selectmen's meeting of the Town's board and commission chairmen and presented them with the following information: That 2005 saw the completion of the bathroom facilities at River Walk Pavilion and they are used constantly by our residents, teams, churches, local organizations and schools. The Pavilion is available for rent and chairs, tables, a grill can be rented. There has been no vandalism. The Commission is hoping to raise funds in 2007-2008 for construction of a kitchen, which would include a commercial stove, sink, etc. Playground equipment has been ordered and will be constructed at the Tot Lot and Nick Platt Field. Joe Fredlund is the Parks and Rec representative on the River Loop committee (old town garage site) - some ideas for this area that have been expressed have been playing fields and a "doggy park." Sheila also informed the commission that Michael Jackson, chairman of the Board of Finance, complemented the Commission on their hard work in successfully raising the funds for the Pavilion and thanked them for a job well done.
- **Financial Report:** Mary Anne Greene presented the month's "Program Report" which indicated income and expenses for specific programs.
- **Capital Budget:** Lisa Easter and the commissioners reviewed the following requests that will be presented to the selectmen for inclusion in the capital budget for the next fiscal year: 1) tennis court resurfacing; 2) kitchen at the pavilion; 3) visitor dug out at the Ted Alex field and 4) canopy/ windshield for the gator. Several of the commissioners will attend the selectmen's budget workshop on March 12 at 4:30 p.m.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Lisa Easter submitted a report on the following:

- **Playgrounds:** See above under Old Business.
- **Hot Shot Contest:** Sarah Swanson won the Litchfield County Contest for her age group! This is the second year in a row we have had someone go to the State level. Congratulations, Sarah!
- **Swim Lessons:** Sign ups are in full swing for the March and April lessons. There are already 87 children signed up.
- **After School Ski:** WPS and Shepaug Middle School are scheduled to go to Mohawk Mountain after school on March 13th. Alice and Don Page (Cecilia's parents, both retired teachers) will chaperone this trip. Lisa hopes to enlist their help for next year and schedule more trips to Mohawk.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **4TH of July:** Ray Reich reported that he has been notified by Telstar (fireworks company) that their cost will be going up for 2007. Commissioners gave Ray the "go ahead" for negotiating the price. Car passes will be kept at \$20.

- **Movies at the Pavilion:** Joe Fredlund reported that he has looked into purchasing a projector and screen to show classic movies at the Pavilion. They would be free, families could bring potluck suppers, perhaps get Pappa Joe to come...**Motion:** To approve up to \$2,000 from the Pavilion fund (contingent upon technical advice) for the purchase of a projector and screen. By Tim Cook, seconded by Joan Gauthey and unanimously approved.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Sheila Anson reported the following:

- **Personnel Committee:** Joan Gauthey, Ray Reich and Lou Magnoli will be meeting with Lisa in the near future.
- **Purchasing procedure:** The procedure for requesting funds for purchasing equipment through the Town's budget was reviewed.
- **Happy Birthday:** April 1 - Lou Magnoli, April 22 - Holly Haas.
- **Polar Bear Congratulations:** To Steve Haas and Pam Quist for a job well done!
- **Boston Marathon:** Good Luck to Kristen Haas.
- **Senior Project:** Sarah Fredlund's Mardi Gras dinner to raise funds for a scoreboard on the field hockey field is this Saturday - March 10th - at the Salem Church.
- **Sandy Brugger** passed away after a long battle with cancer. The Senior Project room at the high school will be dedicated in her name.

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

**NEXT MEETING: APRIL 9, 2007, 7:00 P.M. Land Use room.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk

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