

## April 11, 2006

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

**Call to Order:** Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. explaining that the Commission had met informally at 6:00p.m. at the **Nick Platt Field in New Preston** to look at the Town-owned field and **discuss the possible placement of a playground there.**

Rev. Bill Hawley of the New Preston Congregational Church hosted the Commissioners and will be a member of the "playground committee". First Selectman Dick Sears also attended and explained to those present that last May the Town had approved \$30,000 to be spent on a playground at this location. There was discussion as to the exact size of the property owned by the Town and if there would be room for both the soccer field and the playground. It was determined that Tim Cook would investigate this and once this is known the Commission will discuss and determine how large the playground area can be and what equipment would be appropriate. Lisa Easter has several names of people who are willing to serve on the playground committee. There is also a plan to improve and replace equipment at the **beach playground** and the **Tot Lot** playground at the playing fields in the Depot.

**Minutes: Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 13th Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission with the following corrections: " ... 5th & 6th grade basketball teams coached by Mike Alex (not Alec); cost to increase the size of the septic system at the new Pavilion is estimated to be \$17,000 (not \$1700); and 4th of July tickets will be increased to \$20 (not \$15). By Tim Cook, seconded by Holly Haas and unanimously approved.

### OLD BUSINESS:

#### River Walk Park:

- Joe Fredlund and Sheila Anson met with members of the Washington Garden Club (that has \$5-6000 to donate) to discuss **plantings** at the fence area at the entrance of the new Pavilion. Rich Bette who was involved with the original design for River Walk was also present. The plantings will be done this spring. Joe has also spoken with Artistic Irrigation regarding installing a "drip system" to water the existing and new plantings (getting water to the various locations is very difficult at present). The cost would be approximately \$2400. If the cost of the plantings does not use the total amount of the Garden Club's donation, perhaps part of this could be used for this, otherwise will discuss taking out of Parks and Rec funds.
- The **dog waste receptacle** has been received and it was decided to place it by the corner of the Ted Alex field - a bush will also be planted.
- The **signs on the men's and ladies' room** have had to be replaced twice (adhesive) - will investigate ones that screw onto the doors.
- It was approved to permit Larry Cable to spend up to \$250 for a **storage container** for his cleaning supplies, paper towels, etc.
- C.J. Kersten will contact Daryl Wright regarding the installation of a **light switch** in the storage area of the Pavilion.
- **Larry Cable**, groundskeeper, is presently scheduled to work 18 hours per week - occasionally more time is required for which he is compensated. After July 1st he will go on salary figured at 20 hours per week.

- Tim Cook spoke of some repairs, improvements and general "clean up" that needs to be done, painting maintenance building, small touch ups, etc. - old fence along fields (will ask Town Highway Dept. if they can get).

#### **Beach/Boat Launch:**

- Sheila explained that **John Peterson and Robert and Diane Chase** had written a letter to the Board of Selectmen, copied Parks and Rec Commission, asking the Town to consider a plan to allow **fishermen to gain access to Lake Waramaug daily from 6:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. prior to the official opening of the boat launch.** The Selectmen offered a possible solution of having a lottery that would allow 5-6 boats to moor off the Town beach. For several reasons this as not agreeable to the above parties. The Selectmen could not offer any other solutions due to staffing, budget constraints and the Town's being bound to the Lake Waramaug Agreement. This Commission discussed pros and cons of building a small dock, then having a lottery to determine who would use the slips. Ray Reich felt the preferable solution would be to extend hours and personnel. Perhaps a fisherman would be willing to do the launch monitoring. More discussion needed.
- Ray Reich reported there will be a meeting on April 12, 2006 with the DEP regarding ramp designs.

#### **Planning Commission-Depot Study - No report.**

#### **Little League:**

- Tim Cook reported practices have started. Season opens on 4/24. New doors are needed on the dug out at the Dick Ayer Field and the visitor's dug out needs to be painted. New bases are needed as well as installing "fence toppers" on the Joe Martin Field. Tim will look into prices. There was discussion as to what to do with Field #4 (Diamond Ball) - decided to spread top soil and seed - used as an "all purpose field".

#### **Master Plan:**

- Lisa Easter reported that she has received some responses to the survey that was in the last newsletter asking townspeople what they would like to see done - kitchen addition at the new pavilion ranked high as well as the repairs and equipment replacement at the tot lot. Several other ideas submitted as well.

#### **4th of July:**

- Ray reported donation monies are starting to come in and the t-shirt design is "coming along".....?.....surprise!

#### **Senior Projects:**

- Sheila reported that Caitlin Donovan's Road Race held at the Pavilion was a success despite the cool, drizzly day. Steve Yorzinski has not yet reported back about his soccer clinic and Mike Hill's Shepaug Baseball Championship signs are not yet completed.

#### **Summer Concerts:**

- Lisa will ask the Hershey's if they would be willing to chair/organize this.

#### **COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

- Lisa handed out a packet that included information on the Tot Lot, dog waste signs, no skateboarding signs, summer program brochure, budget figures submitted to the Selectmen, a

letter received from Conor Fairbairn regarding skateboarding, etc. Anything needing discussion will be addressed next month.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Basketball Court at WPS:** Paul Cullen of Region #12 has informed the Commission that gravel is needed around the edges, new nets and cushions need replacing.
- **New Employment:** Lisa reported that Cecilia Page will return as Summer Recreation Director and Jeff Cox will become the Beach Director. Will advertise for an assistance beach director.
- **Tot Lot:** C.J. Kersten reported that there are parts of the Tot Lot he and the committee feel are unsafe and dangerous. He will be meeting Lee Levesque the Town's Building and Properties Manager, tomorrow to discuss further. **Motion:** To dismantle those parts of the Tot Lot that are considered unsafe and possibly harmful as soon as possible. By C. J. Kersten, seconded by Holly Haas and unanimously approved.
- **Thank you's:** Lisa has received a thank you note from Mohawk Ski Area for our After School Ski Program being held there and a note from the Judea Nursery School for the donations made to their very successful auction.

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

- **Happy Birthday to Lou Magnoli (April 1st) and Holly Haas (April 22nd).**
- **Thank you to Lisa and son, David,** for painting parks and rec storage room in the Town Hall basement.
- **Congratulations to Cindy Brissett** on her art show at the Washington Art Association.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 8, 2006, 7:00p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk