

April 8, 2003

Present: Sheila Anson, Lisa Easter, Joan Gauthey, Joe Fredlund, Lou Magnoli, Ray Reich, Tim Cook, Mary Anne Greene (Secretary).

Minutes: Motion: To accept the minutes of the March 10, 2003 meeting as presented by Ray Reich, seconded by Joan Gauthey and unanimously approved.

I. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Beach and Boat Launch: Ray Reich reported that he has begun receiving money for rental of space in the boathouse. (*Please note: the Boathouse is full as of this writing. There is no more rental space available.) There is nothing new to report on the Boat Ramp discussions with the State.

b. "Comfort Station": Sheila Anson and Joe Fredlund reported there has been movement on the Comfort Station. Plans were unveiled at the Bowling Alley Open House held on March 14th. Members of the Commission have met with Linc Cornell and Susie Payne to discuss fundraising. Work will hopefully begin on this endeavor in the next few weeks. Also, members of the Commission met with the Board of Finance which requested specific numbers - cost estimates, how much Commission hopes to raise, etc. in order to have a clearer amount to put into the capital expenditures budget plan. Tim Cook has met with Borgessi Construction from Torrington and has shown them the plans. They will work up an estimate of the costs involved in building the structure. Wyant and Company has offered to donate some time, as has Justin Moore. Tim estimates that once the job gets started, it should be about a two-month job (weather permitting). Sheila mentioned the Commission should speak with members of the Lion's Club regarding its plan for the Comfort Station, as the Club was instrumental in the building of the Pavilion. Port-a-potties: Lisa Easter has been contacted by Chatfield Equipment regarding using their "facilities". Lisa will speak with Mr. Septic who is our current vendor and work out the best agreement.

c. Parent Council/Youth Association: No report.

d. Town Garage Property: No report.

e. Baseball/Little League: Tim reported the number of registrations is low this year with there being only one major league baseball team and one major league softball team. The field signs are ready and will be hung this week. Tim has done some work on the fields and feels the dugouts at the Ted Alex field should be painted and the dugouts at the Dick Ayer field are two different shades of blue and should also be painted. Lisa Easter offered to contact the high school and inquire if any students interested in painting for community service hours. Tim also reported there will be a little league workday on April 23rd and the Jamboree is scheduled for April 26th. Equipment will be ordered this week.

f. Insurance Coverage: Lisa explained that the \$3000 that needed to be spent for additional insurance was in the Parks and Rec's budget but is now under the Town's insurance line item. There was discussion of assisting a family whose child was injured in a Parks and Rec event and who did not have insurance. It was decided to evaluate this, should it happen, on a case-by-case basis.

g. Fourth of July: Ray reported money is coming in but slowly. Will go over list of contributors and possible contributors with commissioners to determine if personal contacts from members would be helpful. Ray and Sheila discussed the need of getting together with Resident Trooper Sordi to work out details of parking, etc. Ray also mentioned the possible need of paying for parking help. Will look into the Police Explorer program for assistance. Ray will be discussing the T-shirt design with Nancy Mygatt in the near future. He has asked the commissioners for ideas. The design will then be given to

Art Crabtree who will make up the shirts. Sales start the end of May.

h. Defibrillator: Sheila responded to the Lion's Club representative (after the last meeting) that the Commission would like to accept the generous offer of the defibrillator and that they were hoping to do this after the Comfort Station was built. The Lion's Club would like to give the gift as soon as possible. It was gratefully decided to accept the gift and have it at the beach/boat launch. A member of the Commission may attend the next Lion's Club meeting/dinner to accept the gift. This may also be an appropriate time to discuss the plans for the Comfort Station with the Club.

i. ASAP: Sheila and Ray reported on conversations with JoAnne Torti following the last meeting. Ray reported on the ASAP Advisory Board (of which he is a member) meeting. Ray explained to this board that the program has been so successful and has grown so much (in number and in the amount of money involved), the Parks and Rec Commissioners feel that it may be time for it to "go out on it's own". All the commissioners recognize the hard work and dedication that JoAnne has put into making ASAP the success it is. General consensus of opinion is to keep it under Parks and Rec for one more year.

j. Doug Bixby's letter: Last spring Rev. Bixby wrote a letter to the Commission addressing concerns about the use of alcohol by some fans and/or parents at the baseball fields. The Commission unanimously agreed to write to Rev. Bixby affirming the need to be watchful of behavior at the fields and to quietly "police" what goes on.

k. David Van Moffaert's letter: Lisa received a letter regarding basketball travel teams. This has been referred to Joe and Tim who will discuss it with the Basketball Committee.

II. COORDINATOR'S REPORT: See attached. In summary: After School Arts and Crafts program is doing very well under the direction of Kezia Hearn. One more watercolor class will be run before the end of school. Spring Tennis will again be offered with Kenyon Clark and Owen Curtain coaching. Summer Programs are taking shape - we are looking for a director for the Summer Recreation Program. Ads have been placed in newspapers. Anyone interested should contact the Parks and Rec office (868-1519).

The Beach will again be under the direction of Jessica Giordano and Jeff Cox. Hank Vallely will be returning as director of the Boat Launch. The Bowling Alley Open House was a huge success and there has been a great deal of interest in renting it. Leslie Anderson will be teaching a Babysitting Awareness Course in May. For information on these and other programs please call the office at 860-868-1519.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Foxwoods Trip: Lisa asked the Commissioners for their opinion on sponsoring another trip to Foxwoods - very successful last year. Decided to do again. The suggestion was also made to look into Mohegan Sun and attending a women's basketball game.

b. Yankees v. Red Sox Trip: scheduled for September 7th.

c. Outdoor Basketball Courts at Primary School: Tim is interested in holding "informal", non-mandatory practices during the summer-perhaps one evening a week for members of the 7th and 8th grade travel team.

d. Tennis Courts: Nets need to be put up.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Sheila requested the record state the Commission's thoughts are with our friend Dennis Hussey as he has just undergone extensive surgery on his legs and we wish him well.

Congratulations to the Syracuse Basketball Team for winning the championships and good luck to the

Lady Huskies as they fight for the championship tonight. Sheila also expressed the admiration to the young people in our schools (private and public) who put in countless hours in the classroom, on the sports fields, in the theatre, arts, etc. and who do such a wonderful job! Congratulations to the cast and crew of Footloose - the musical that was performed at Shepaug this past weekend - for doing a fantastic job!

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 12,2003 at 7:00p.m. in the Land Use Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene
Secretary