

May 17, 2011

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Present: Chairman Sheila Anson, Commissioners Joe Fredlund, Lou Magnoli, C.J. Kersten, Darren Dutcher, Ray Reich. Coordinator Lisa Easter and Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Visitors: Joe Mustich, Whitney Ryan, Laura Eanes Martin.

Call to Order:

Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. noting there was a quorum present. Sheila welcomed Darren Dutcher as the Commission's new member – the first since 1997! She also welcomed this evening's visitors.

Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Lou Magnoli and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Fireworks:

Sheila Anson reported that Steve DeWitt has requested to sell bottled water at the fireworks – donating the proceeds to various national organizations. She referred the matter to Ray Reich who spoke with Steve and explained that the Town's service and volunteer organizations are the only vendors allowed to sell anything at the fireworks. The date for the fireworks is Monday, July 4th – with no rain date. Sheila also reminded the volunteer cleanup crew that they would need to meet early on the 5th, as that is a workday :(! Ray Reich reported that tickets are on sale; he has met with the "shooter" and reviewed the site, etc. He will be meeting with Resident Trooper Steve Sordi regarding the police coverage and related costs. The Commission again agreed that this expense should be kept to no more than \$7000. Ray will relay this to Trooper Sordi. Ray also reported on an email received from South Street residents Susan and John Payne regarding an incident last July 4th that delayed their getting to their home for over 45 minutes. Following discussion, it was agreed that Ray and Lisa would write a letter to South Street residents outlining the one-way traffic patterns, etc.

* Beach/Boat Launch:

Lisa Easter met with the Town's CIRMA (insurance) representative at the beach. The only recommendation as a result of the visit was to flag or paint orange a section of metal pipe that is in the ground that the gate pin inserts into to hold the gate open. He also provided a sample waiver form to be used if kayaks or canoes are made available for beachgoers to use. Lisa will also check with Town Attorney David Miles. Ray Reich reported he has been in touch with Beach caretakers regarding their duties and work that needs to be completed prior to the beach's opening and on an ongoing basis throughout the season. If anyone has any concerns they should contact Ray who will communicate them with David and Jess.

* River Walk Park:

Sheila reported that the Pavilion has been re-keyed. Items needing to be taken care of include installation of the Joe Martin Field scoreboard (electrical work also required for this – cost?) and the flagpole – Sheila will check with Tim Cook. The walkway has been washed out in areas – more stone is required to fill in. Soccer goals have been left in the brush – who is responsible, where should they be stored, etc. Darren Dutcher offered to look into this.

* Five Year Plan:

Joe Fredlund explained that after meeting with the Buildings and Property Commission several months ago, some items discussed for the five year plan will be in the budget (capital) under Buildings and Property.

* Youth Work Initiative:

Denise Arturi has been “fundraising” for this project. No applications have been received as of this meeting’s date.

* VIS Projects:

Joe Fredlund offered to get more information regarding the Bocce Court. The Village Improvement Picnic is scheduled for June 17th at the Pavilion at which time Parks and Recreation will thank VIS for their generous funding toward the fireplace. It has been used and enjoyed by many. Lisa will check with Gary Alex, Groundskeeper, to make sure the plaque is installed.

COORDINATORS REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported:

* Bus Trips:

NY Yankees vs. Tampa Bay Rays on August 14th – SOLD OUT!

* Swim:

Still going strong – one session ends May 24th, the other June 10th.

* Summer Camps:

Registrations are coming in. Information has been sent to the schools and the web master. Darren Dutcher asked about Summer Recreation counselors, and CITs (Counselors In Training), and Lisa explained the number required, how CITs usually move up to the counselor positions, etc. The Town of Warren approached Washington’s Parks and Rec Department and it was agreed to accept children from Warren in the Summer Rec program as our number of participants has decreased significantly. There was then discussion about asking Roxbury if they too would like to be able to send children to our program as they only offer a “sports camp”. Motion: To approve accepting children from Roxbury into Washington’s Summer Recreation Program, pending Director Cecilia Page’s agreement and setting of an enrollment limit by her. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Lou Magnoli and unanimously approved.

* Vacation Coverage:

Thank you to Addie Avery for covering while Lisa was on vacation.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Vacancy:

Currently there is one vacancy on the Parks and Rec Commission. Tonight’s visitors have all expressed an interest in serving. The Commission will discuss at their next meeting and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for appointment.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

Sheila Anson reported:

* The Stephen Reich Memorial Award will be awarded to a Shepaug student on May 26th at 9:30. Joe Sottolano, Stephen’s baseball coach at West Point, will be speaking.

* The Stephen Reich Exceptional Citizen Award will be awarded at the Memorial Day Parade

ceremony on May 30th.

- * Congratulations to Evan Scribner who has been pitching for the San Diego Padres.
- * Congratulations to David Easter, Sara Osborne and Sarah Fredlund on their college graduations.
- * Congratulations to Tom and Ashley Farnen on their 25 years as Headmaster at Rumsey Hall School.
- * Congratulations to the new babies who have arrived at the Gunnery!
- * Congratulations and Best Wishes to Mark and Charlene Showalter on their marriage.

Adjournment:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 20, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk