

June 18, 2007

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

Guests: Julie Fredlund, Linda McGarr, Janet Buonaiuto, Diane Dupuis, Dick Sears.

Call to Order: Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the May 14, 2007 meeting of the Parks and Recreation with the spelling correction of "Kristin" Haas. By Ray Reich, seconded by Holly Haas and unanimously approved.

VISITORS:

- **Julie Fredlund** attended this evening's meeting to request a donation for the **Shepaug Friends of Music Jazz** concert in Washington on July 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Pavilion. The cost of the artist is \$500 and the cost for the PA system rental, etc. is \$250.00. The concert is free to the public and separate concerts are offered in each of the three towns in the Shepaug region. She thanked the Parks and Rec for their donation last year. This was discussed among the commissioners later in the meeting.
- **Janet Buonaiuto, Linda McGarr and Diane Dupuis** attended this evening's meeting to discuss the beach area renovations and beach hours. Janet Buonaiuto suggested that perhaps alternative housing could be found for Hank Vallely, which would allow more space at the beach if a beach house did not have to be reconstructed or renovated. Ray Reich explained that the Commission has felt strongly for years that having a caretaker on the premises was preferable for security reasons, grounds keeping, maintenance, emergencies, etc. In addition, a building of some sort needs to be at the beach for the office, bathrooms, storage. Janet also asked if asbestos testing had been done prior to the demolition of the boathouse. Dick Sears assured her it had been and she was free to see results. Linda McGarr asked to speak on the subject of the beach opening and hours of operation. She felt it should open on Memorial Day Weekend, not on the day following the close of schools - even if no lifeguard is on duty. She and Diane Dupuis spoke of extending the hours past 5:00 p.m. in order that working people could avail themselves of the beach. Both felt that this had been requested for quite some time. The Commissioners agreed and stated that a formal request had never been presented to them and offered to look back into the history of the Beach Commission (which no longer exists) to determine when and why hours had been changed to what they currently are. It was also explained that the budget for this season had already been approved by Town Meeting and to extend hours would require additional funds for staffing. Diane stated she and the Conservation Commission, feel that the Board of Selectmen could work with Parks and Rec and make a request to the Board of Finance for more funds and/or the beach could be staffed partially with volunteers. Sheila assured the visitors that the Commission would discuss their concerns.
- **Dick Sears** spoke about the "Old Town Garage" property at 16 Titus Road. Inland Wetlands has approved plans drawn up by Dirk Sabin for a walking path and meadow for passive recreation. First step will be to "clean up" the area by moving equipment up to the new garage area on Blackville Road, move, clean up materials piles, etc. The Highway Department will be doing the work. A committee has been formed to look into future uses of the property and public input will be welcome.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Beach and Boat Launch:** See discussion above. Dick Sears reported that Ray Reich, and the Committee discussing the boat launch and future plans for the beach area, have contracted with Jim Ross Construction to demolish the boathouse. Ray reported they have met twice and have discussed renovation of the caretaker's cottage, keeping in mind the need for storage of the airboat and air pump, working on an area that would allow easy access to the water for kayaks and canoes, etc. There is a great deal of planning yet to be done.
- **Groundskeeper Duties/Job Description:** Dick Sears explained that he and Joe Fredlund had been working on this. Groundskeeper Larry Cable will now be under the direct supervision of Kevin Smith, Highway Director. However, Lisa Easter, Parks and Rec Coordinator, will also have input on duties. This is a part time seasonal position. **Motion:** To approve the Groundskeeper Duties/Job Description and management assumptions as presented. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.
- **Bowling Alley:** Lisa Easter and Tim Cook have spoken to a man regarding refinishing the alleys but have not heard back from him yet. Lisa will follow up.
- **Little League:** Tim Cook was not present for a report this evening. Sheila reported a letter had been received from Doug Bixby regarding a Little League matter. She will refer on to the newly formed LL Association.
- **Logo for Parks and Rec:** Cindy Brissett is working on this.
- **Movie Night:** The next scheduled movie night at the Pavilion is July 20th.
- **Relay for Life:** The committee was very grateful for the use of the Pavilion and grounds. All went very well. Sheila praised the event, its organization, and the wonderful job "cleaning up."
- **River Walk Park:** After discussing the Relay for Life, the Commissioners spoke about the need to rent portable toilets for larger events held at the Pavilion. It was agreed to amend the "Application for Use of the Pavilion" to include "Depending on the nature of the event, the Parks and Recreation Commission may request that you rent portable toilets." Also, as there are still funds in this year's budget, the purchase of a stove and other kitchen equipment for the Pavilion was discussed. **Motion:** To purchase a stove and necessary equipment for the pavilion, not to exceed \$5000. By Holly Haas, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.
- **Tennis Courts:** Estimates are being received to refinish the courts.
- **Fireworks:** Tickets will be available for \$20 in the Parks and Rec Office Monday through Friday. The same design as last year will be used for the trophies for the road race. Sheila will meet with Clark from Steep Rock to look at Tunnel Road, which was damaged in the Northeaster - this is the route the road race takes. The fireworks will not have synchronized music this year but will look into for next year (try to do this every other year).
- **Horrigan/Swanson Tournament:** No report.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Lisa Easter reported the following:

- **Bus Trips:** There are only six tickets left for the Red Sox game on August 18th . Lisa has purchased tickets for the Radio City Christmas Show on November 10th and for Cirque DuSoleil's "Wintuk" on January 5th , 2008. Each show will cost \$85 per ticket.
- **Summer Camps:** Registrations are coming in slow but hopefully will pick up now that school is out.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Sandwich Board Sign: Motion:** To approve the purchase of a sandwich board sign not to exceed \$500. By Ray Reich, seconded by Holly Haas and unanimously approved.
- **Field Use:** Chris Snyder, Shepaug's trainer, has asked to use part of the soccer field for a conditioning course he is offering on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. The Commissioners asked for more detail.
- **Shepaug Friends of Music: Motion:** To approve a donation of \$750.00 from the Parks and Recreation Commission for the Shepaug Friends of Music concert on July 7th. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: From Sheila Anson...

- **Our sympathy and our condolences...**to the family of "Mo" Roberts.
- **Congratulations to graduates...**God Speed!
- **Village Improvement Society picnic...**great success and thanks to them for making our River Walk Park and Pavilion a reality!
- **Happy Summer!**
- **Happy July Birthday...**Julie Fredlund, C.J. Kersten, Mary Anne Greene.

AND...from Lisa and the commissioners:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SHEILA!

(June 23)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m., as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk