

July 21, 2010

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

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

Visitor: Gary Fitzherbert.

Call to Order: Chairman Anson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the June 21, 2010 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission by Holly Haas, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

Visitor:

Gary Fitzherbert attended this evening's meeting to explain an idea that is being developed in the Town that came about at the suggestion of the Republican Town Committee. Through Facebook, Twitter, U-tube and a web page, it will be an avenue for expressing positive comments about people, places, happenings, etc. in Town. It was the decision of those present to "table" further discussion until all commissioners were present.

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Beach/Boat Launch:**

Frannie Caco had emailed the Commission regarding the status of the Play area. She states that she has heard from many beachgoers that there be a swing and a climbing structure. There was discussion about the amount of space that a swing set requires, whether there is a need for a swing and playscape that would offer climbing, etc. Some Commissioners have heard from several people that they preferred the beach area, as it is, that there are other playgrounds in Town and that this area should remain primarily a beach. New picnic tables have been ordered and it was decided that since this is the first season with the new facilities, a "trial" year, play equipment will be addressed in preparation of next season. There is no plan at present for installing hibachis. The staff will be asked to keep the bathrooms open later, until dusk, every day (not just the days the boat lunch is open later).

*** River Walk Park:**

Sheila Anson reported the Swanson/Horrigan Tournament was a huge success, attended by many, and thanked all those who worked to make it the success it was. Sheila will ask Gary to make sure that any firewood left after an event is not left out; and will check on the status of the path behind the Pavilion. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Manson for the donation of the andirons! Joan Gauthey reported the walking path is in beautiful condition. Lisa Easter reported that four long tables would be ordered. She also reported that M&M Tennis courts had come back to inspect the courts for concerns about the seams that had been voiced. They felt everything was fine. Commissioners would like to meet with them personally as the initial concerns were still present. Lisa will arrange. Lisa also reminded those present of the importance of making sure renters of the Pavilion have the necessary insurance. Tim Cook reported that the baseball shed has been broken into twice and some vandalism has taken place in and around the Park/Pavilion.

*** Fireworks and Freedom Run:**

Sheila reported that there were 151 participants in the Freedom Run on July 4th. Thanks to all who helped make it run so smoothly. Ray Reich presented a final accounting of fireworks income and expenses. Ticket sales were down considerably as were t-shirt and tank top sales. A technical problem prevented the music from playing during the show. The Parks and Rec Commissioners were thanked by Ray and Sheila for the large amount of work that goes into the fireworks before, during and after the actual event. Ray will be looking into other companies to do the shoot next year. The Lake Waramaug Association may be approached about having their show on a different night than the 4th. More discussion/planning for next year will take place over the next several months.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported:

- * Summer Recreation Camp is going very well. Director, Cecilia Page, would like to hold it at Shepaug again next year.
- * Lego Camp, Multi-Sport Camp and Softball Camp – registrations are ongoing.
- * Bus Trips have been difficult to fill lately and some have lost money. Lisa has not been able to get good seats at a Yankee game and with the approval of the Commissioners present, will be planning a trip to the Big E for Connecticut Day. No other trips are scheduled at the present time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * Summer Concert at River Walk Pavilion: The Gerry Gerst Band is scheduled to give a Shepaug Friends of Music concert at the Pavilion on August 28, 2010.
- * Movie Night at River Walk Pavilion: Peter and Hilary Houldin have donated a “Movie Night” put on by Big Wave. As the available Pavilion summer dates are few, it was suggested that the fall or the winter – in the Main Hall of the Town Hall, might be better for scheduling and attendance. Sheila will speak with the Houldins.
- * Five Year Plan for Facilities and Programs: Sheila asked the Commissioners to begin to think about this, a subcommittee may be formed, and discussions with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance take place.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Sheila Anson reported:

- * Happy July Birthdays to Joan Gauthey, Mary Anne Greene and Tim Cook.
- * Congratulations to Steve Sordi on being elected Chairman of the Board of Education of Region #14.
- * Thanks to all who volunteered, worked, attended a fabulous Fourth of July celebration!

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m., as there was no further business for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: September 13, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk