

September 10, 2007

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

Guests: Scott Werkhoven, Ryan Thompson.

Call to Order: Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the July 23, 2007 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission as submitted. By Holly Haas, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

Visitor:

- **Ryan Thompson attended** this evening's meeting, with his project advisor Scott Werkhoven, to discuss his Senior Project with the Commissioners. He would like to build an equipment shed for the Shepaug baseball team. At present, the equipment is stored in the basement of the Washington Primary School, which can often have water/dampness problems. The shed would be 8 1/2 x 12 feet and Ryan would like to place it behind the first base dugout. It would house the golf cart, field equipment, etc. The Commissioners voiced their support of the project, although they would like to look at other suggestions for its placement. Ray Reich and Joe Fredlund offered to work with Ryan and Scott to look into possible locations. They also advised Ryan that he needed to present his plan to the Board of Selectmen and he should contact Janet Hill, Land Use Coordinator, about what commissions need to be contacted for approvals/permits, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **RIVER WALK PARK:**

1. Ryan's Project: see above.

2. John Meeker Letter: Mr. Meeker has written a letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding "dog-issues" at the River Walk track. Dick Sears responded to Mr. Meeker, addressing various points in his letter and assured him he would refer his concerns to the Parks and Rec Commission. Discussion ensued regarding the dog problems and the various complaints received - specifically unleashed dogs and dog waste. Signs will be posted stating dogs MUST be leashed or the owners will be fined and/or banned. The Commission will also put an article in the upcoming town newsletter, possible do press releases and "get the word out" that the "law" will be enforced. Ray Reich and Sheila Anson offered to help Cindy Brissett, Animal Control Officer, "police" the park. Lisa Easter will contact Mr. Meeker.

3. Movie Nights: Although attendance was not high at the three movie nights held at the Pavilion this summer but those who attended enjoyed them very much. May take some time to catch on. Lisa suggested that the schedule of movies be planned well enough in advance so that she could publish in the spring flyer, and get PR out early.

4. Groundskeeper: Larry Cable has submitted a report on maintenance projects completed (see attached). Joe Fredlund and Sheila met with Kevin Smith, Highway Director, to review Larry's hours and duties as Parks and Rec Groundskeeper - coordinating with Highway Department hours. Any emails to Larry should be cc'd to Kevin.

5. New birdhouses: Thank you to Marilyn Mitchell for the donation of Howard Bronson-made birdhouses for the walk.

6. Gate pole: Joe will speak with Kevin and Roger to try to come up with a better system for the pole that now needs to be manually removed to open the gates into the Pavilion area.

7. Ashtray urns: The problem of people littering the area of the Pavilion with cigarette butts was discussed. Urns will be purchased so that there is place for people to deposit them.

8. Bathroom floors: The bathroom floors at the Pavilion need to be painted again. The suggestion was made to have them covered with a rubber matt. It was decided to look into places that may use this type of cover and determine if it would be beneficial to do.

9. Storage Shed: The Commission has received zoning approval for the construction of this shed off the end of the kitchen. The building permit is in the works. Larry and Lee Levesque will build.

10. Fire Marshall Inspection: Don Etherington will advise on the need for a hood for the new stove. The septic will hopefully be installed this fall.

- **BEACH/BOAT LAUNCH:** Ray Reich reported that bids for the boat ramp/parking area have been received and should be awarded at the Selectmen's Meeting on September 20, 2007. Ray also reported that William Worcester, architect, has come up with a conceptual drawing for a new beach house. There will be no loss of beach or grass area. There was discussion of hiring Dirk Sabin, landscape architect, to provide plans for fencing, plantings, etc. The Commission was in favor of having fencing installed around the beach property. Lisa has spoken with CIRMA (insurance company) and they recommend signs be posted stating "Swim at Own Risk" and/or "No Lifeguard on Duty" and the gate not be left open when there is no one on duty. She has also done a spread sheet showing the additional cost of having guards on duty starting on Memorial Day Weekend (weekends only until the official opening of the beach the day after school closes for the summer) and to extend the hours the guards are on from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. - \$10,774.95. Jeff Cox, Beach Director, has spoken with Lisa about the difficulty of getting lifeguards. This may be a concern if hours, days were extended.
- **FIREWORKS:** In addition to the rain date and the "rainy rain date," the fireworks did go off with some minor glitches. Those who attended had a Star Spangled time! Ray reported on a few "glitches" and the extra costs that were incurred by having to with the additional day/night - police, Explorers, custodians, etc. Ray presented his final accounting, which shows that the fireworks do not make money and, thankfully, income equals expenses.
- **TENNIS COURTS:** The Commission is working on specifications to go out to bid for the resurfacing of the tennis courts at the Washington Primary School.
- **SIGNS AT NICK PLATT FIELD:** Lisa reported that the Board of Selectmen has approved the placing of signs that would advise "Park Closes at Dusk." With these signs posted, the police can "enforce" which will hopefully eliminate loitering and vandalism.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

1. Red Sox game: All had a wonderful time despite set back with the bus traveling on a road with "too low an overpass." The Sox won !

2. Swim: lessons begin September 21st.

3. Tennis: Joanne Kelly will be holding a tennis camp for grades 3, 4 and 5 for four weeks, beginning September 19th.

4. Fall Programs: will be publicized in the Town's fall newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Reports: Summer Camp's Final Reports and Groundskeeper's Report** have been submitted and are attached to these minutes.
- **Michael Gorra** continues his work with the youth hockey program for the children of Washington. He is currently seeking donations.
- **Golf and Gamble:** Joe Fredlund is organizing a day of golf and gambling at Foxwoods Casino on Columbus Day. He needs a minimum of 16 people and has a maximum capacity of 24. The cost is \$165/per person.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- **Happy Belated Birthday to Ray Reich** (August 24) and **Happy Birthday to CJ Kersten** (September 28).
- **Congratulations to Ray Osborne**, son of Tom and Pam Osborne and nephew of Lisa Easter, on his marriage this Saturday.
- **God speed to Rev. Bob Ficks.** His parish - St. John's - and the community of Washington will miss him and his kind and generous leadership.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007, 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk