

September 12, 2005

Present: Chairman Sheila Anson, Joan Gauthey, Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Lou Magnoli, Tim Cook, C. J. Kersten, Coordinator Lisa Easter, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Call to order: Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. noting there was a quorum. CONGRATULATIONS TO C.J. AND TAMMY! Happy belated Birthday (August 24th) to Ray Reich and Happy Birthday (September 28th) to C.J. Holly Haas was not present at this evening's meeting as she is in Switzerland - the meeting was therefore held outside on a beautifully *cool* evening.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **River walk Pavilion Project:**
- **Irrigation Project:** Joe Fredlund reported this project was completed and working very well. Artistic Irrigation did an excellent job and has made a significant "in kind" donation to the Parks and Recreation Commission. A thank you note/acknowledgement was distributed for signatures.
- **September 4th Party:** See below under Chairman's Report.
- **Other News on Project:** Since the last meeting, Joe informed the Commission members that Mr. Osborne had resigned as groundskeeper and **Larry Cable** has been hired on a part-time basis to finish out the season. He is doing an excellent job. Lisa Easter and Joe compiled a list of "job duties/responsibilities" for this position. Other resumes have been received and during the winter season they will be reviewed and interviews held if necessary. **Opening and closing of bathrooms**-at present Larry opens and the Police lock at night. A few "kinks" in this system are being worked out. Larry and **Lee Levesque, Building & Properties Manager** have been working on a new roof for the warming shed. This building will be used for storage of equipment. Thank you to the **Washington Grange for a gift of \$2000** - making this job possible. **Pets on leashes and "poop" concerns** - Lisa Easter has been working on a draft ordinance that would lay out rules and regulations regarding keeping dogs on leashes and "cleaning up" after pets - fines will be issued for failure to adhere to these rules. If the ordinance is passed by the townspeople, a list of the dos and don'ts will be posted along with other items such as no skateboarding, overnight camping, etc. Lisa will review the draft with Cindy Brissett, Animal Control Officer, and have for the Commissions review next month. **Budget Review:** The Commissioners reviewed a summary of income and expenses on the River walk Pavilion Project prepared by First selectman Dick Sears. There was discussion as to whether or not approximately \$7000 should be spent at this time on lightening rods and a new concrete floor. It was the consensus of opinion that these items were not a top priority and therefore not a wise expenditure at this particular time. **Motion:** The Parks and Recreation Commission does not feel it necessary to spend \$7000 at this time on lightening rods and concrete floor repair and does not authorize this expenditure from it's account. By Joan Gauthey, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved. Lisa Easter will prepare a memo to this effect for Dick Sears. **Discussion of other purchases for Pavilion:** Folding chairs, tables, a grill, small refrigerator, were suggestions made. All could be stored at the facility and the fee for using the Pavilion would be based on the flat rental figure and additional items added to the cost. **Rental Fee:** Lisa Easter looked back in her notes from a meeting with Dick Sears and other members of the Commission held on 4/22/05. It had been decided that the fee would be raised to \$100 and \$50 of this would be refunded if all in order. A fee list for the extra equipment will need to be created. It was also decided at that meeting that the rental fee will be deposited into the Parks

and Recreation account as opposed to the General Fund. **Sign:** Joe has spoken to a Mr. VonEgidy - sign man - a resin sign - approximately 8 feet long - will cost in the area of \$2300.00 Other avenues will be looked into - senior project? Lou Magnoli brought up the fact that the Commission has worked VERY hard to make the Pavilion/Bathroom Project a reality and it should "be finished right! - Let's not skimp."

- **Little League:** Tim Cook reported the season finished strong - two tournaments - did VERY WELL.
- **Beach-Boat Launch:** Ray Reich reported he received an email from Dick Sears - no new news from DEP and launch project. The DEP has not yet accepted the submitted design for the launch/parking area etc. The five boats per day were allowed onto the lake from the State Park - this worked well - most days only 2-3 permits issued. The Boathouse is full and not accepting any more storage. Lisa Easter reported that Jessica Galbraith, Beach Director, left before Labor Day weekend - Jack Mahoney, Meredith Morse, Leah Gollow Smith - all filled in. Before the start of the next summer season, the Commission's personnel committee (Ray, Joan, Holly, Lisa) will work on policies.
- **4th of July:** Ray reported the bill for State police has been received - \$4500. The number of troopers and the number of hours they work on the 4th has been increasing over the last several years. Ray will discuss situation with Steve Sordi, Resident Trooper, and re-think for next year. Can we get away with fewer troopers? Ask Roxbury and Bridgewater constables to also work the event? As the costs associated with the fireworks continue to increase it was decided that the price of the tickets will be increased from \$15 to \$20 per car.
- **New Year's Eve Dance:** The Commission has not heard from Linda Spak recently re: her offer to again chair this event. Lisa will contact her. Where will funds come from?
- **Holiday in the Depot:** It had been discussed after last year's event that the Parks and Recreation Commission would speak with the Washington Business Association about taking over more of the organization, etc. of this event. Lisa will follow up with them.
- **Basketball:** Tim Cook reported that the first meeting of the Shepaug Basketball Association will be held Thursday of this week. There will be more to report next month.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Soccer Camp went very well; Yankees Bus Trip was again a huge success despite a 100+ degree day, and two rain delays - Yanks won !; Karate is finishing up it's current session the end of this month - may move to Montessori when basketball begins; Fall Swim will begin in October; Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show Trip will be held on November 16th. Lisa also read a thank you note from the Washington Fire Department for use of the fields, etc. for their annual carnival. Reports from summer programs were distributed. **There have been several requests for new program proposals: Colleen Breeckner, Yoga** - will check building use for the times she is interested in; **Infant Massage** - will get more information; After School Ski at Mohawk - Lisa working on this - possibly offering one day a month for middle/high school age skiers and one day a month for primary school. A couple of mothers have offered to assist.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Leash/Litter Ordinance:** see above under River walk Pavilion Project.
- **New Programs:** See Coordinator's report.
- **Capital Improvements:** Ray Reich suggested the commission begin working on the next five year plan and bring the current one up-to-date. Joe Fredlund and Tim Cook volunteered to bring

some ideas to the next meeting.

- **Congratulations to Joan Gauthey and Charlotte Johnson** - Civil Union on October 1st. Sheila will be opening the office that day for others who wish to have a ceremony.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sheila Anson reported that the September 4th "First Flush Celebration" was a great success - wonderful turnout - beautiful weather. Although the official "First Flushers" were Ruth Alex and Pappa Joe Martin, Dennis Hussey's granddaughter "had to go" and deserves the credit for the real first flush! Thank you to Pappa Joe for providing his delicious food and drink and for the donation he took up and presented to the Commission at the end of the event! Thank you to Estelle Bronson for her lovely note of thanks and donation following the event! Sheila again thanked her commission for their YEARS of dedication and hard work making the bathrooms a reality. There was discussion of setting up some publicity, etc. outlining all the Commission has done for the Town and Shepaug athletics.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:45p.m. as there was no further business. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Joan Gauthey and unanimously approved.

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 3, 2005, 7:00P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk