

## September 13, 2004

**Present:** Chairman Sheila Anson, Holly Haas, Joan Gauthey, C. J. Kersten, Joe Fredlund, Lou Magnoli, Ray Reich, Tim Cook, Coordinator Lisa Easter, Secretary Mary Anne Greene, First Selectman Dick Sears.

**Call to Order:** Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. noting there was a quorum.

**Minutes: Motion:** To approve the minutes of the July 12, 2004 meeting as submitted. By Holly Haas, seconded by Joan Gauthey and unanimously approved.

**Welcome Back:** Sheila welcomed the Commission back after having the month of August off. It was suggested when making up the meeting calendar for next year, the July and August meeting should be combined and held later in July than the second Monday of the month.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**1. River Walk Pavilion Project:** Only one bid was received for the project - from Brad Sedito in the amount of \$232,000. It has not been awarded as the amount was higher than projected. Dick Sears, Sheila Anson, C. J. Kersten and Joe Fredlund met earlier this evening to discuss and plan the next step. William Worcester, architect, and Brad Sedito are reviewing the plans to see what can possibly be cut to lower the cost. Even if this is accomplished the Commission feels that at the present, funds will still be short of the actual expense. Several of the Commissioners will again meet with Linc Cornell to discuss the need for more fundraising. At present, the Commission has raised \$46,000 through fundraising. It is hoped that the Village Improvement Society will contribute \$10,000, another organization may contribute \$4,000, the Town of Washington has committed \$50,000, and possible contributions of \$20,000 may be raised through private contacts. It is projected that at least \$20,000 more will need to be raised. The Commission will need to go out to bid again for a lower construction figure. In summary - more money needs to be raised and the total cost of the project needs to be lowered.

**2. Beach and Boat Launch:** It was reported by Ray Reich that Washington, Warren and Kent all voted yes to the Lake Waramaug Boat Launch Agreement with the State. The three First Selectmen will sign the Agreement this week. It will most likely take a couple of years to finalize the plans and construction - Land Use permits need to be obtained, details with DEP need to be worked out, etc. The financial obligation will be carried mostly by Washington with the other two Towns contributing. DEP has indicated grant monies will be available for the actual construction of the ramp. The boathouse, pump house and caretaker's house will also need to be reconstructed. Keeping the swimming section of the beach is also of utmost importance as well as working out the best situation for the boaters. Ray Reich thanked Dick Sears for his efforts in getting the Agreement approved. Dick urged the Parks and Rec Commission to stay involved in the planning and permit process. A detailed report has been received from the Beach Director, Jessica Giordano noting a successful season. 180 beach permits and 152 boat permits were issued. The importance of having beach staff trained on boat inspections was mentioned as well as having the Director trained in Water Safety Instruction.

**3. 4th of July Fireworks Wrap-up:** Ray Reich reported a successful 4th with a few minor kinks: it was difficult to hear John and Ralph Quist sing the National Anthem and the coordinated music with the fireworks was questioned (may not do next year). The Police did an excellent job of taking care of an unfortunate underage drinking incident. Expenses were up slightly from the previous years, donations stayed approximately the same. Next year's costs for port-a-potties and the band will increase. There was discussion of getting more help for the morning after clean-up - the same "crew" has been doing it year after year. Can scout groups be asked to help? High School students needing

community service hours?

**4. Backboards at WPS:** Joe Fredlund reported that the backboards have been ordered and will be paid for partially by Parks and Rec, Region #12 and a private donation from the O'Malley family. A special thanks to the O'Malleys!

**5. 225th Anniversary Celebration:** Sheila Anson and Dick Sears both reported a VERY successful parade and picnic on August 28th despite the heat. Special thanks to Jim Brinton who headed the parade committee. September 18th will be the "Tribute to Washington" at Shepaug High School. There will be music, dance, acts, skits, etc. featuring Skitch Henderson, Pilobolus, Momix, the Shepaug chorus, etc. Admission is \$10. Sue Reich's 225th Anniversary quilt is on display in the Town Hall. There is also a display from the Institute for American Indian Studies and the Gunn Historical Museum in the Town Hall foyer. Thank you to all!

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Lisa Easter reported on a great summer and distributed reports from Jessica Giordano, Beach Director; Matt Perachi, Dimensions Basketball Camp; Courtney Dohman, Summer Recreation Camp Director, Sheila Stutsky, Pre K and K Program Summer Camp; Mary Jane Ruthven, Arts and Crafts Summer Camp; and Jaye Stuart, Berkshire Field Hockey. ACE Baseball and Boat Ramp reports still need to be submitted. Lisa requested that several Commissioners form a committee to review policies and procedures for hiring and re-hiring for the summer programs. There will be a trip to Radio City Music Hall on November 11th and to Newport Mansions on December 1st. The Yankees Game trip was a huge success and special thanks to Cheryl and Dick Ayer for overseeing the trip and that all went smoothly. Sheila suggested that a personnel committee be formed consisting of Holly Haas, Lou Magnoli, Joan Gauthey and Ray Reich to not only review above mentioned policies but to also review Lisa's position. She asked those commissioners to give it thought and report back to her by the October meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Basketball:** Tim Cook reported the season started with a meeting last week. Registration will be held from October 16th-29th and try-outs will begin on November 1st. Bridgewater needs one more member for the board of the Shepaug Basketball Association. **Motion:** To approve the appointment of Jenine Michaud as a Washington representative on the SBA. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

**2. New Yoga Class:** The Rec Commission has received a request from Jennifer Pote to hold a yoga class on Saturday mornings in the Town Hall. The cost will be \$50 for 5 classes or \$12 per class for drop-ins. 5% of proceeds will be given to the Commission. There was discussion as to whether or not there were too many yoga classes being held. It was decided to give it a try as each teacher's style and following is different and the variety of days and times appeals to different groups of people **Motion:** To approve Jennifer Pote's proposal to conduct a yoga class on Saturday mornings. By Holly Haas, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

**3. Painting Dug-outs:** Tim Cook reported he had gotten a purchase order to get paint for the dug-outs at the Ted Alex Field. He, Scott Anson, Fritz Johnson, and Mike Alex will volunteer their time to do the painting.

**4. Old Warming Hut Restoration:** Tim Cook asked about restoring the old hut so it could be used for storage, etc. He, Joe Fredlund and possibly others would volunteer their time to do the work. Would need funding for supplies. Sheila asked him to work up estimates of how much it would cost before further discussion.

**5. Town Planning Process:** Dick Sears reported that the October 4th Town Meeting will be a "kick-off" for discussions on the Town's future planning issues. Following an over-view at the Town Meeting,

there will be four issue forums dealing with Municipal Projects, Open Space, Diversified Housing and Public Education. There will then be a Focus Meeting to summarize and prioritize. Dick urged the commissioners to be involved and vocal in expressing their views for the future.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Sheila Anson reported a donation from Chubb & Son, Inc. in the amount of \$1250 for the Pavilion Project. Special thanks to the Ericson Agency and the Houldin's for arranging for this gift. Congratulations to Michelle Gorra on her election to the Board of Education. Michelle will be completing the term of Dan Leab who recently resigned. Thanks to Dan for his years of dedication to the Board of Ed! The Washington High School reunion held this past weekend was a huge success with over 250 attending! Thanks to Superintendent Carmelich who rolled up his sleeves to help cook and give tours of the high school. The "guest cat" at the Commission's July meeting has been adopted by the Owens family - just in the nick of time! Belated Happy August Birthday to Ray Reich and Happy September Birthday to C.J. Kersten! Tim Cook reported a very successful benefit golf tournament today for Brian Kaylor who was able to attend and who is improving-with hopes of coming home soon. The Commission's best wishes go to Brian and his family! Get well wishes are also extended to Dick Johnson!

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: October 4th at 6:30p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Secretary