

## September 13, 2010

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

**Present:** Chairman Sheila M. Anson, Commissioners Ray Reich, C.J. Kersten, Joe Fredlund, Holly Haas, Tim Cook, Coordinator Lisa Easter, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Guest:** Karen Puskas, Shepaug Soccer.

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

### **Minutes:**

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the July 21, 2010 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.  
By Holly Haas, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

### **WELCOME:**

Karen Puskas, Shepaug Soccer Club:

Karen, President of the Shepaug Soccer Club since June 2010 has written a letter to Sheila and the Parks and Recreation Commission explaining the Club, its fee structure, what they are used for, etc. and an explanation of their request of Roxbury, Bridgewater and Washington for \$1000 each toward the program (a copy of which is attached to these minutes filed with the Town Clerk.) At this meeting, Karen re-iterated and further explained that the Club is responsible for the maintaining of the fields. This includes lining, grass cutting, plugging, seeding, fertilizing, etc. These funds would be put toward the ongoing maintenance of the fields in all three Towns. Following discussion, the Commissioners thanked Karen for attending and will discuss her request further.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Beach/Boat Launch:

Ray Reich and Lisa Easter reported they have taken the Boat Inspection course. Beach Director Jeff Cox has submitted his report indicating a smooth season. Lisa mentioned she and Jeff will be “thinking ahead” for staffing the beach the week before Labor Day, which can be difficult with students returning to college. Caretakers/tenants David Lyon and Jess Pullara will be invited to next month’s Parks and Rec meeting (at the beach). Lisa suggested a “path” (brick, stone) be created from boat launch to the handicapped bathroom and removal of rail in front it, to provide easier access. Currently grass is being worn down and person needs to go to end of ramp to get to bathroom. Ray Reich mentioned that the airboat has not been kept in the room of the new beach/boat house and will be inquiring why not.

River Walk Park:

Rentals continue to be numerous through September. Drainage work at the Primary School grounds kept August a little quieter. Three trees have been removed that were considered dangerous or in poor condition. However, new trees had been planted previously. One tree will be moved. There was discussion about weekend back-to-back bookings at the Pavilion – this will be reviewed at the end of the season and again at the beginning of the 2011 season.

People, Places & Happenings Web page:

As a follow-up to Gary Fitzherbert’s visit in July, the Commissioners felt that they would prefer not to align themselves with either political party, or contribute positive postings about themselves as a Commission.

#### Summer Camps wrap up:

Lisa has received reports from summer program directors (copies of which are attached to these minutes filed with the Town Clerk). All in all it was a successful summer - although numbers of attendees were down.

#### Bus Trips:

Lisa reported the trip to the Big E has been cancelled as only 3 people signed up. The bus had already been paid for – they will credit this payment toward our next trip.

#### Summer Concert & Movie Night:

The Shepaug Friends of Music Concert with the Gerry Gerst Band was again a successful event with approximately 70 attendees. Sheila has spoken with Hilary Houldin about their donating Movie Night at the Town Hall after the Holidays. Everyone was in agreement this would be good timing.

#### Five Year Plan:

Sheila has asked the Commissioners to begin thinking about this with a deadline of the end of the year in order to begin thinking of budget planning in January.

#### Program Financial Report:

Mary Anne Greene updated the Commissioners on the Program balances. Lisa noted that Summer Recreation balance was down due to low enrollments with costs staying the same or higher. Commissioners discussed the possible need of raising fees but at a rate that would not make attendance of children prohibitive to some families.

#### Morning Swim:

Sheila has reported that the Shepaug pool is again closed for repairs and noted thanks to the Washington Volunteer Fire Department for neutralizing and emptying pool into the pond prior to any major damage occurring at the school.

#### Tennis Courts:

Lisa reported that M&M Tennis inspected the courts – explained the “ fiber look” that concerned some commissioners – cracks are sealed and guaranteed and will expand with frost, etc. Gary Alex was present at the inspection and was satisfied with explanation.

### **COORDINATOR’S REPORT:**

Lisa Easter’s report consisted mainly of the Summer Program reports that are attached and

#### Holiday in the Depot/Slices with Santa:

Daryl Wright of the Fire Department has asked the Commission to consider the idea of combining the two events on the same evening. Slices with Santa, sponsored by the Fire Department, has been held the past two years on a Sunday at J.D. Tuckers and monies raised are donated to services in Town that assist needy individuals and families. Parks and Rec members present this evening thought this may be a good idea – beneficial to both events however cautioned about Santa visiting or attending both at the same time. Perhaps Mrs. Claus or Frosty could be at Tuckers? Lisa will speak with Daryl.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Fall Tennis:

Joanne Kelly will hold lessons beginning next week for 4 weeks for middle school students from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Walkway at Pavilion:

Gary Alex has completed the pathway behind the Pavilion and would like to continue it to the phone.

Motion:

To approve \$1500 for materials and labor for the extension of the pathway from behind the Pavilion to the phone.

By Tim Cook, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

Shepaug Soccer Club request:

Following discussion,

Motion:

To approve the request of \$1000 from the Shepaug Soccer Club, for one year, for field maintenance, noting that the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission, by making this payment, does not support out-of-season sports and has relayed this feeling to Karen Puskas, President of the Shepaug Soccer Club.

By Tim Cook, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

Bocce Courts:

Joe Fredlund reported that Terry Tiernan has spoken to him about having Bocce Courts somewhere in Town. He will come up with plans, costs, ideas for placement, etc. for a future meeting.

Bowling Alley:

Commission will look into “cleaning” of the alley lanes, if it can be done in-house as opposed to hiring a professional and will ask that the area around the lanes be cleaned up if possible – removing items that have been stored there from other places in the Town Hall.

Walker’s Luncheon:

Estelle Bronson has suggested the “regular walkers” get together for a luncheon at the Pavilion. Sheila will work on a date with Estelle. Motion: To approve \$100 for luncheon expenses. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Holly Haas and unanimously approved.

Fireplace Plaque

has been ordered and will work on an appropriate time for installation with “special guests”.

### **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

Sheila Anson reported the following:

Happy August Birthday to Ray Reich!

Happy September Birthday to C.J. Kersten!

Congratulations to Sarah Fredlund for making field hockey history at Babson College!

Congratulations to Sue Reich on her book World War II Quilts!

The Major Stephen Reich Award for Exceptional Citizenship poster has been updated and is on display in the foyer of the Town Hall.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m., as there was no further business for discussion.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Please note change: October 18, 2010, 5:15 p.m. Washington Town Beach.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk