

## PARKS & REC COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. Present were Maria Bissell, John Zannotti, Ruth VanHouten, Traci Fairbanks, Melissa Metivier, Margaret Winn, Bob Brockman (7:20), and Debbie Bokum

#### Minutes

The September 20, 2010 minutes were approved with an addition on a motion by Debbie and a second by Ruth. The March 21, 2011 minutes were also approved as amended on a motion by Maria and a second by Debbie.

#### Communications

It was decided that the Commission will be doing activities at Ware's Grove on Sunday, July 3, for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. They will include activities similar to the ones at last year's summer fun day. Ruth wanted to make sure the jump house was secured, if we will be using it that day. Melissa will come up with a list of items for the day.

#### Programs

The North Shore beach parking enforcement was discussed. Chief Fairbanks suggested that the first offense ticket be \$25 and double that for each subsequent offense. Right now the money would go to the state. Signage will be placed in the parking lot as well as a news release in the papers alerting the public to the change to a resident only beach.

In reference to the brochure for the summer program, the School Board voted to not allow any brochures that are not school related to go home with the children. This has been the major way the brochure has been distributed in the past. John will call the School Board Chairperson to try to get approval to send this home as we always have done. Deb will call Prospect Park Press to see about costs for mailing under their permit as a back up.

John reported on the water testing. We were charged \$40 by EAI for testing. Spofford Lake Association does VCAP (volunteer) testing; however, we are required to test because we have public beaches. Melissa said she was told we were not required to test. She will get in writing what is required due to conflicting reports. John spoke with Bayard Tracy about sharing costs for testing. SLA may have to share the costs by making a donation to Parks & Rec.

#### Summer Program Goals

A plan is being put in place to increase the quality of the CIT program. The students will have to apply, go through an interview process, and have three letters of recommendation. They will also have to commit to a number of days and times. The participants will be broken down into four age groups with

each group having three CITs per counselor. Maria recommended giving more responsibility to the CITs and rewarding them. Ruth agreed but did not want the CITs to become the counselors. The summer staff is all set with some new faces on board.

Some new ideas for this summer will be grilling once a week, pictures of the staff on site in their uniforms with qualifications listed, and a staff appreciation day. Maria suggested that the Parks & Rec Commission cook for them at a staff appreciation day at the end of the year.

### Facilities

The Commission needs to start thinking about the possible reconfiguration of the concession stand. Melissa will e-mail everyone the updated building repairs and maintenance.

When the weather is better, the Commission will walk through the grove and beach areas to plan for tree removal and planting. Ruth suggested that we work with other groups in town to keep expenses down for removal. Chuck Mayotte updated his quotes - \$4,900 for the eight pine trees.

The cost of running the one street light at the entrance to Ware's Grove is approximately \$20 per month. If we paid the \$400 for conversion, the Town would pick up the cost each month to keep it on. Margaret will get the expenses for the last year and see what savings we would actually have if we did convert it.

### WGRFEP

Traci reported that the person she had in mind for heading the triathlon was not interested in taking this project on. Debbie reported on a meeting held at Betty Tyler's house. There is a large group of people interested in resurrecting the triathlon that was held successfully for many years at the lake. This would include activities for both children and adults. The group concluded that because of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the town this summer, it would be better to postpone such an event until next year in order to do it right and hopefully become an annual event. The group did ask that the Parks & Rec Commission come up with a wish list and a goal for raising funds through this event. They will begin meeting late this summer or early fall. The group has no problem running this to benefit Parks & Rec.

Several other ideas were discussed on how we could raise money. It was decided that Debbie would ask Hank Lange to come to our next meeting to discuss how a triathlon is run and the experiences he has had in running one. He had been the person who ran the Spofford events in the past and has run many other similar events. Questions can be e-mailed to Debbie, who will pass them on to Hank.

### Budget

Margaret went over the few expenses we have incurred since the first of the year. John reported that Melissa found a very good used 4 x 4 for \$3,000.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 23, at 6:00 in the OEM conference room.

Other Business

Melissa reported that she received a reminder for the septic system inspection. John will check the initial agreement when the system was put in to see what needs to be done and the costs involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bokum