

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION OF  
THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD, HELD AT TOWN HALL, WEDNESDAY,  
March 25, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M**

**Present:** Joei Grudzinski, Vice Chairman, Ed Butt, Renee J. Santiago, Cassie Dunn, John Mangold. Dennis DiPinto, Director, Elaine Rajcula, Secretary, Sue Slater, Selectman.

**Absent :** R. Blick, Bryan Chnowski

**Minutes of the Previous meeting** were approved as presented upon a motion made by J. Mangold, seconded by R. Santiago. Passed.

**Public Comment** - J. Mangold questioned the parking near Route 7 to access the Greenway. The Director stated that DOT is looking into this – just north of the Hearth Restaurant, on the same side of the street. DOT currently owns the property and the process has started for the potential easement to the Town for parking purposes. We should know more in in the coming weeks.

**Correspondence** - None.

**Greenway** – D. DiPinto informed the Commission of correspondence between himself and a resident on Deane Rd. His concern is that of a lack of vegetation buffer between the greenway bridge site and his backyard. The first contact with this resident came last summer when in response to his concern, we applied for a grant for a dozen white pine trees. We heard this Winter that we were awarded the grant for \$3,500 for the plant materials. This will be a Fall project as the actual funds are not available until this next growing season.

**Recreation Supervisor's Report** –M. Knox - D. DiPinto stated to the Commission that he and M. Knox are busy hiring beach and camp staff. All hire letters will be sent out this week. Spring & Summer programs as well as beach and boat passes are currently ongoing.

**Parks' Supervisor's Report** - The Park Department is in full swing as we are in our busiest season. Interviews for full time maintenance laborer position are currently underway. Focus will be on Memorial Day parade route soon. Beach preparations are currently also underway.

**Monthly Financial Report** - – D. DiPinto - The electrical line in the operating budget has been exceeded (as expected) and has been addressed in next years budget. The Parks Department line items are in good shape.

**Concerts in the Park** – D. DiPinto - He handed out the 2016 Summer Concert Series line up of musicians and sponsors. The entire series pays for itself and costs about \$10,000 per year to provide eleven weeks.

## Subcommittee Reports

**Lakeside Community Room** - D. DiPinto - He explained some of the issues in administering the rental of the Lakeside Community Room. J. Grudzinski stated she is worried about people going down to the Beach and asked if we had cameras. D. DiPinto stated that there are no cameras but for private parties taking place after hours someone from the Parks & Recreation will be there to make expectations clear. The person overseeing the Lakeside Community Room will be paid through fees associated with the cost of the rental. She also stated that if anyone has ideas pertaining to this, the Commission will discuss them. The Director will keep the Commission updated. J. Mangold inquired if the Lakeside Community Room would be opened year round. D. DiPinto stated it is a seasonal building by design and will be closed annually November – March.

**Whisconier School Playground** – J. Mangold stated that he working on getting funding and a group of volunteers to pay for and build a ga-ga pit in the play area. J. Grudzinski said with all the things we contribute to, we should let the Brookfield people know about this situation. D. DiPinto will send a memo to the Board of Selectmen on what self-sustaining projects have paid for over the last three years.

J. Mangold also inquired about spraying the playgrounds. The Director stated it had not been done for years. He indicated that he would make this a priority area in next year's budget request. He will have to get a budget number for spraying.

**Open Space at Burr Farm** - C. Dunn said there was a tree down there and poison ivy covers the whole tree. D. DiPinto will have Parks Supervisor check this out.

**Greenway Update** – D. DiPinto – Biweekly meetings focus on retaining walls and boardwalks. Start date on said items is pending final submissions and hardware delivery. Open items to address at a later date include a blacktop overage which will be negotiated with the help of the CTDOT. Discussion on parking options ensued; people must be encouraged to use the Town Hall for parking overflow once the project is completed. A plan to provide maintenance will be developed and will include frequencies of how often we cut along the greenway and how far back on each side will be maintained.

**Parks Reinvestment Phase 1** – D. DiPinto –There is bubbling on the Cadigan Tennis Courts. This will be addressed as part of the project close out now underway.

**Phase 2** – J. Grudzinski asked about contingency dollars for drainage and the gate. D. DiPinto replied that the BOS recently allocated \$50,000 to get the work done now.

**Budget** – D. DiPinto - Additional contracts service for refuse containers on Greenway lawns first.

**June Agenda** – The Director asked the Commission if anything they want on the Agenda for the next meeting to call him.

**Adjournment** – A motion was made by R. Santiago to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by J. Mangold. Passed.

The next meeting of the P & R Commission will be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2016

If you cannot attend this meeting, please call the P & R Office at 203-775-7321.