



# TOWN of DEEP RIVER

## Parks & Recreation Commission

174 Main Street ~ Deep River ~ CT ~ 06417

Chairperson, Janice Kmetz, called the meeting of the Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:34 pm on Wednesday, November 9th at Town Hall. Members present were Janice Kmetz, Mary-Elizabeth Massey, Kelly Lacoske, Carol Jones, Grace Petroka, Miriam Morissey, Sarah Kateley and Kevin Crosby. Those members absent were: Jason Mercer, Tania Crosby, Cathy Smith, Sarah Tulledge, Dave Berardis, and Peter Woodcock Sr..

**Audience of Citizens-** There were two. The first was Pat Mule who spoke to the board about using Plattwood Park to hold two living history workshops. The first is a Flint and Steel Fire Building workshop and the second is a Tomahawk Throwing Workshop. Class size would be limited to 30. The age requirement is 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up for the tomahawk throwing workshop. Mule charges \$50 per person for the flint & steel workshop and \$35 per person for the tomahawk throwing workshop. The workshops are approximately 2-3 hours in duration. Two workshops can be run in one day. Mule will work with the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the fees charged as the board pointed out that typically Deep River residents get a reduced rate. Mule is looking to run these workshops in the spring.

The second audience of citizens was Don and Audrey Brookes representing 'The Misfit Cruisers' which is a group that holds 'cruise' nights with antique and collectable cars. The group would like to use Plattwood Park on Tuesday evenings from May 8<sup>th</sup> 2012 through September 2012 from approximately 5-8 pm for the purpose of holding a cruise night. The number of cars arriving each week will change but typically they expect from 50-150 cars each Tuesday evening. They do not charge an entry fee for the cars. They do not charge admission. The park will remain open to the public. They have sponsors who pay for the trophies that are given out. The Misfit Cruisers will do the advertising. They will have a DJ playing music but will not offer food. They have offered that any local group such as Parks and Recreation can sell food at the weekly event and then any profits are kept by the group. This will have to be coordinated with the dry pants club who sail their model sailboats in the upper part of the pond on Tuesdays.

**Secretary's Report-** The motion to accept the secretary's report with the following correction was made by Massey and seconded by Kately. The motion was passed unanimously. The correction to the secretary's report is-

Under Audience of Citizens-

– regarding the dog fun match to be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2011. The correct date is **May 27<sup>th</sup> 2012**.



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**Treasurer's Report-** Discussion on recent expenses @ Plattwood and Devitt. The motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Petroka and seconded by Kateley. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Old Business-**

- a. Summer Concerts: No report.
- b. Carnival: No report
- c. Summer Program: The summer program is done. Post camp wrap up meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> @ 3:15 location to be determined.
- d. 5K Run/Walk and Fun Run: The race was a great success. Kudos to Kevin Crosby for all of his hard work.
- e. Family Day/Fireworks: Based on the favorable comments received by the board regarding the wonderful fireworks display, the Commission has voted to have Pyrotecnico return to put on the display in 2012.
- f. Movies: Due to the low turnout at the movie on the Friday evening before family day, Crosby suggested perhaps for next year no movie be scheduled for this date but rather shown at another time. Adding more movies during the summer months was suggested.
- g. Plattwood Park: Dick Smith had a timer installed on the lights at the basketball court so that the lights are available to be turned on from 6-10 p.m. via a switch on the outside of the box. It is no longer necessary to use the key to get inside the box in order to switch the lights on. The bathrooms have been closed for the winter and a port-o-let installed.
- h. Devitt Field: The water has been drained and the bathrooms have been closed for the season. The bathrooms are currently being used for storage. The shingles on the roof of the upper dugout on the A field need to be replaced. The Commission will look into charging fees for the use of the fields as was previously done as referenced in the 2004 minutes. Kateley will speak to football about replacing snack shack window facing the 'A' field as it has extensive damage and is not air tight. The phone number listed on the sign is incorrect as it is not the Parks and Recreation's number.
- i. Town Landing/Dock: Question as to when the docks will get pulled. Massey to look into to this. Also, Massey suggested that the port-o-lets be left there through November as people are still using the area late into the fall.



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- j. Brockway Ferry: Nothing to report except it really needs to be cleaned up as it is very overgrown.
- k. Easter Egg Hunt: Nothing to report.
- l. Fishing Derby: Nothing to report
- m. Halloween: The Halloween festivities were very well received with 100's of children and adults participating in the parade, hayride and haunted house. The Griffin family did a wonderful job again with the haunted house. Many favorable comments were received regarding our inflatable decorations outside of Town Hall. Jones has sent a thank you note to all the volunteer helpers as well as to the Griffin family on behalf of Parks and Recreation. Suzette Villafana was the Grand Marshall of the parade. Five prizes were awarded for pumpkin carving designs. The hay ride tractor was borrowed from Scott's orchard here in Deep River and rides were given from approximately 6:30-9:00. A series of old black and white Casper the Friendly Ghost movies were shown in the auditorium. Many compliments were received regarding the movie choice. Approximately 4 boxes of non-perishable food items were collected as was requested for admission.
- n. Holiday Stroll: The stroll will be held on Friday night, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Horse and carriages from Cedar Knoll Farm have been confirmed for that evening from 6-9 pm. The payment balance has been sent. Kmetz has secured the Connecticut Shoreline Train Group who will have a holiday train display in the auditorium. The group will set up on Sunday, Nov 27 and Monday the 28<sup>th</sup>. The display will be open on Wednesday Nov 30<sup>th</sup>-through Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 or 6:00 pm until 8:30 or so. Also, there will once again be a gingerbread house contest. Lacoske will secure a Santa for the evening. Kmetz will borrow a Santa suit and notify the Fire police regarding traffic control for the evening. All commission members are asked to bake at least two dozen cookies, more if possible as the crowd attending is large. Kmetz asked that all committee members be available as last year the event was so well attended that the few commission members present were extremely busy.
- o. Basketball: The registration for the basketball program is underway and will close soon. Draft of teams is scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Practices will start after the Thanksgiving break with games starting in early January. The PTO has agreed to pay half of the cost of the hoop extenders as discussed at the last meeting. The town crew will perform the installation so the cost of the extenders and parts is \$ 1435.00. With the PTO donation, the cost realized by Parks and Recreation should be about \$718.00, plus shipping costs.



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- p. **Bus Trips:** Due to previous commitments by the Chester and Essex Parks and Recreation Commissions, the joint trip tentatively scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. Jones has reserved blocks of 50 seats to three UCONN basketball games at the XL Center. There are two women's games and one men's game. The cost is \$11:00 per ticket for the women's games and \$16.00 per ticket to the men's game. The price is for the ticket only and transportation is the responsibility of the ticket holder.
- q. **Membership:** Kmetz asked the group to help recruit new members as there are still vacancies on the commission. Also, at the December meeting, nominations for officers will be taken. The new slate of officers will be voted on at the January meeting.
- r. **Fundraising:** Kmetz urged members to think of ideas to raise money as the commission has many projects/programs that need funding in order to bring them to flourish.

### ***Other Old Business:***

The skateboarding lessons offered at Plattwood Park on Wednesday afternoons have finished. Ten children participated in the six week class. Positive feedback was received from the children and parents regarding the class.

Kmetz reminded all that the new slate of officers will be presented at the December meeting so please consider making a nomination or running for office. Kmetz announced that she will step down in January as chairperson of the commission.

### ***New Business:***

Discussion regarding the use of Plattwood Park by Pat Mule ensued. Petroka made a motion to allow Mule to run his living history workshops providing he pay the Parks and Recreation Commission 10% of the registration fees collected. The motion was seconded by Massey. The motion passed unanimously.

Morrissey made a motion to allow the Misfit Cruisers to use Plattwood Park on Tuesday evenings from mid May 2012 to end of September 2012 from approximately 5-8pm. Crosby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



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Petroka made a motion to allow the Kenilworth Kennel club to use Plattwood Park on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2012 for a Dog Fun Match. The match would attract 100-200 dogs and because there is an entrance fee, the club will be required to pay not only the out of town park usage fee of \$100.00 but also 10% of the fees collected or an amount agreed upon by the Commission. The club will do all the advertising. Massey seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is Wednesday, December 14th, 2011 at 7:30pm.

A motion to adjourn was made @ 8:54 by Morissey and seconded by LaCoske. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Carol Jones, Acting Secretary & Director, Parks and Recreation*