



TOWN of DEEP RIVER

Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:37 pm on Wednesday, April 9th 2014 at the Deep River Town Hall. Members present were: Betsy Scholfield, Tracy Woodcock, Jane Moen, Miriam Morrissey, Justin Waz (new member) and Carol Jones. Absent: Sarah Kateley, Mary-Elizabeth Massey, Cathy Smith, Kevin Crosby, Grace Petroka, Tania Crosby, Stephanie Award, Don Sampson, Dave Berardis and Jimmy Cunningham

Audience of Citizens – There were two entities represented. The first group to present was Jen Donahue and Jeni-Gray Roberts from a local DR Brownie Troop. They would like to put a letterbox down at the town landing in one of two areas. The location of said letterbox would then be posted on the internet so that anyone could come to Deep River and, using a GPS, find the box. Also, as part of Earth Day, they would like to have the girls do some clean up at the landing.

The second audience of citizens was Erik Anderson from Hungry Hal's concessions. He would like to once again park his trailer down at Plattwood to sell food and beverages. He would like to put a freezer on site.

Secretary's Report – A motion to accept the Secretary's report was made by Scholfield and seconded by Moen. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Revenue is same as last month. Motion to accept from Moen and seconded by Scholfield. The motion carried.

Old Business:

- a. Summer concerts – The committee met and set up all the concerts. They are working on setting up the food vendors.
- b. Carnival – Scheduled for June 19th – 21st, 2014; Thursday – Saturday. The committee will be meeting shortly. The posters have been ordered.
- c. Summer program – Interviews for Director and Assistant Director took place and both positions were filled. Lauren Barker is the new assistant and Mary-Elizabeth Massey is the new camp director. Brochures are done and have been emailed out and sent to the local schools.
- d. 5-K Run - Runners can register on-line. The link to Raceroster.com is now active. This is the 20th anniversary so the Commission will plan something special to commemorate.
- e. Family day and fireworks – Jones will call Pyrotenico, the fireworks company, to reiterate that the fireworks need to be higher in the sky this year to ensure visibility from the park. Kenny Hebert's band will once again entertain the crowd at Plattwood prior to the fireworks show. Jones will contact the caricaturist, Bill Dugal, to confirm details and request a contract be sent.
- f. Movies – Jones will select the movies and look into buying a new screen



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- g. Plattwood Park – According to D. Smith, Jones reported that the bids for work at Plattwood will most likely go out in June with some work beginning in July. Misfit Cruise nights will begin May 13th. Discussion ensued to have ‘Hungry Hal’s’ concession truck once again at the park for the season. Local residents had complained that the truck was parked there but never seemed to be open. Moen made a motion to allow him to set up his truck and sell but that he commit to selling at set times so that people could plan on his services. The days proposed were Tuesday nights and Saturday afternoons. Scholfield seconded the motion but added that Jones come up with a contract so that he would be held accountable. The motion passed. Jones will call the ice cream truck about coming down to Plattwood on the nights that the basketball league will be there as well as Fridays when summer camp will be there.
- h. Devitt Field –Via email, the DR Little League batting cage was approved but after another site visit it was decided that the location had to be moved back to option 3 on the original proposal submitted by DRLL in the fall. The location discussed and approved via email had been near the eastern most shed along the third base line of the softball field (‘B’ field). The town’s insurance carrier was consulted and the batting cage had to be relocated away from the playground and high traffic areas. The new location is along the third base line of the ‘A’ field. Morrissey made a motion to approve the ‘new’ location of the batting cage. Waz seconded the motion. The motion passed. Opening Day for DRLL is April 26th. The restrooms will be opened shortly and DRLL will again be given a key so that during games, DRLL will be responsible for opening and closing the bathrooms. Men’s softball will begin games in early May.
- i. Town Landing – Discussion regarding the proposal made by the Brownie troop took place. Commission members did not approve either location presented for the letterbox as they both were locations considered to be too close to the water. A motion was made by Moen and seconded by Scholfield to allow a letterbox in the area to the west in the vicinity of the rock outcropping. The motion carried. Jones will speak to D.Smith to see if it would be possible to have mulch delivered so that the scouts can spread it out during their cleanup day efforts. Jones will check on when the docks will be put in. It was noted that the steps leading down to the lower dock need to be repaired. Commission voted on the new rules for park use and new fees as discussed at the last meeting and sent via email to members. The new rules are on the park use application revised April 2014 found on the Town of Deep River web site. Discussion as to whether or not the fishing pier can safely support 30 people ensued. Morrissey will inquire to a local engineer to have it looked at.
- j. Brockway Ferry – Valley Regional High School will hold their second annual community service day on May 19th. The town crew will cut down brush at Brockway Ferry and then the youth crew assigned to this ‘park’ will rake and make piles to be picked up by the town.



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- k. Easter Egg Hunt – The egg hunt was a success. A group of volunteer young adults from AmeriCorps helped out.
- l. Fishing Derby – The fish have been ordered and Scholfield is going to meet with last year's committee chairperson to finalize details to be utilized for this year.
- m. Halloween Party – No Report
- n. Holiday Stroll – No Report
- o. Basketball program –A wrap up meeting between Chester, Deep River and Essex was held to discuss the winter basketball program. Woodcock will type up all the items/issues discussed. Summer basketball league registration forms have gone out.
- p. Bus Trips –Moen reported that registrations for the bus trips are going well and that people can sign up on line. Payment however must still be done in person at Town hall or via mail. The bus trip to the Bronx Zoo in September was discussed and the committee has decided to go ahead with the date of Thursday, September 25th which is a school holiday.
- q. Membership – The Commission is still seeking new members. Justin Waz, was approved by the Board of selectman and is our newest member.
- r. Enrichment Program – Program is over and it went well. The program was run at a deficit as a few unforeseen expenses came up and a few of the classes had lower enrollment than anticipated. Theater program has their production June 8th. Valley sophomore, Acacia Bowden is running an engineering program for girls in grades 2-4 at DRES which will begin in early May.
- s. Fundraising: No report

New Business:

- Boating course was held on April 6th. Enrollment grew so that the minimum class size was met.
- Buddy Track organizational meeting held recently. The event will take place at VRHS track on May 7th, 14th and 21st.

Motion made by Morrissey and seconded by Waz to adjourn at 9:50 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Jones, Director, *Acting Secretary*
Deep River Parks and Recreation