



Town of Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2016

The meeting of the Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Justin Waz at 7:04 pm on Wednesday, April 13, 2016. Members present were: Karen Dexter, Sarah Kateley, Mary-Elizabeth Massey, Miriam Morrissey, Grace Petroka, Betsy Scholfield, Brandon Woodcock and Stephani Award. Members absent were: James Beardsley, Dave Berardis, Kevin Crosby, Tania Crosby, James Cunningham, Don Sampson, Leslie Sheehan and Cristi Stroud-Downey. Carol Jones, Director, was also present.

A moment of silence was held in honor of former First Selectman, Richard Smith.

Audience of Citizens: Mike Baldwin, President of the Valley Soccer Club (VSC). Baldwin approached the Commission with a request to use Devitt Field as additional practice space for the Valley Soccer Club. Their program has outgrown the fields at John Winthrop Junior High School, which is where the VSC currently practices. The Valley Soccer Club season runs for 8 weeks which begins the first weekend in September and ends the last weekend in October. Baldwin would like to use two fields at Devitt for practices held each week with games on the weekends. The VSC has approximately 400 children in their program, 150 children in their travel program and 250 children in their club program. Due to dwindling resources i.e. volunteers, Baldwin has asked the Commission if they would be interested in managing the VSC children in grades 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 grade, who are not in the travel program. The VSC would continue to manage the children in preschool, kindergarten and 1-2 grade as well as the children in the travel program.

Mark Grabowski, President of the Deep River Little League (DRLL), presented a photo of the new scoreboard. The new scoreboard is black, not maroon. Commission will need to vote to approve color change. Grabowski would like to bring his safety concerns regarding the fields on which DRLL play, to the Commission's attention. He thinks the glare at Plattwood Park, caused by the sun reflecting on the water, presents a

safety issue for the pitchers. He would like to see the larger backstop installed with an “anti-glare” net before opening day. Grabowski will work around glare issues at Plattwood Park by scheduling DRLL games at different times during the day and if necessary, changing the opening day venue to Chester, until the Commission can address the glare issues. Grabowski is also concerned about the condition of the "A" field at Devitt Field. He thinks the fields present a safety issue to the players, due to the protruding rocks, glass and hardened surfaces. He is asking the Commission for money to repair the fields and/or manpower to do so. Audience of Citizens, Tom Allen, presented a survey report and quote from Reed Custom Soils. Reed Custom Soils surveyed Devitt Field, took samples and determined the amount of material needed to repair Devitt Field was 200 Tons. Grabowski also asked the Commission to determine the status of the Football Shed. Could it be turned over to the DRLL even though it is in great disrepair?

Heidi Ramcke, approached the Commission about the Nicholas Ramcke Memorial Skate Contest to be held at Plattwood Park Saturday, August 6, 2016. The Commission requested Ramcke meet the same criteria as the previous year. Ramcke will submit application and all documentation i.e. Proof of Insurance, lifeguard certification, etc., to the Town Hall two weeks before event.

Secretary’s Report: A motion to accept the Secretary’s report was made by Petroka, second by Morrissey, the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: A motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was made by Woodcock , second by Kateley, the motion passed unanimously.

#### Committee Reports:

1. Fishing Derby: Open to all youth aged 5-15 from all area towns, entrance fee will be \$10.00, registration: 7-7:30 am, Derby: 7:30-9:30. Coffee and donuts for sale. Prizes donated by Deep River Hardware, Benny’s and Cabela’s.  
Commission volunteers needed!
2. Bus Trips: Commission Volunteers needed! Fall bus trips to be determined.  
Flyers out for current trips offered.
3. Summer Concerts: Concert dates and locations finalized. June 23, White Eyed Lizard Band, June 30, Meadows Brothers, July 7, Java Groove, July 14, Brad and Brian, July 21, Moving Target Jazz Band, July 28, UHF, August 4, Jim Shepley Band, August 11, Smoke Bubbles, August 18, Charter Oak.
4. Summer Carnival: Committee members need to meet. Dates: June 16-18, 2016.
5. Summer Program: Currently half-full. Lots of buzz in Community about our Summer Program. Parents very happy Summer Program has been expanded

from 6 weeks to 8 weeks. Returning campers pleased with program and counselors. Applications for CIT (Counselors in Training) and counselors can be found online.

6. Movies: No report.
7. Enrichment Programs: No report.
8. Easter Egg Hunt: Need more Commission volunteers to help during egg hunt.
9. 5-K Run Walk: No report.
10. Family Day and Fireworks: No report.
11. Membership: Commission has openings for more members.
12. Parks:
  - a. Devitt Field: Prepped field, needs fertilizer treatment, lots of weeds. Stairs need to be repaired. Water turned on, Jack Scholfield will open and close bathrooms beginning late April.
  - b. Town Landing: Simon's will no longer be at the Town Landing.
  - c. Plattwood Park: Water turned on, graffiti needs to be removed.
  - d. Brockway Ferry: No report.

Old Business: Warriors in the Community Day- Thursday, May 19, 2016. Keyboard Pond, Winthrop Cemetery and Devitt Field are areas where the Commission could use help. Commission should make work-lists for Warriors. Jones will call VNA to see if there are people in the community who might benefit from the Community Day.

Basketball Program: No report.

New Business: Valley Soccer Club: Due to its own limited resources, the Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission is not able to take over the management of any portion of the Valley Soccer Club. The Commission will let the Valley Soccer Club use Devitt Field for a field fee; which has yet to be determined. The Commission needs to determine how much it would cost to re-seed Devitt field. A motion was made by Morrissey to allow the VSC usage of Devitt Field for a fee and second by Kateley, the motion passed unanimously.

regarding Devitt Field, the Commission does not have any money in its budget to cover the repair costs of the "A" Field at this time. The Commission will consider alternative proposals from the Deep River Little League, especially if DRLL will assume all financial costs, for repair of the "A" field. A motion was made by Scholfield to allow DRLL to present a detailed proposal if they so choose, for the repair of the "A" Field at Devitt Field and to absorb all financial costs, second by Kateley and Petroka, the motion passed unanimously.

Massey made a motion to accept the new color of the scoreboard, seconded by Dexter. The motion passed unanimously.

Morrissey made a motion to have the football shed removed when the goal posts are removed, second by Woodcock. The motion passed unanimously.

The over 40 Men's Softball League would like to use Devitt "B" Field for approximately 7 games on Monday nights. Commission needs more details from the Men's Softball League. But at this point, the cost would be \$10.00 per player with a limit of 20 players per roster.

Morrissey made a motion to allow the Nicholas Ramcke Memorial Skate Contest to take place, second by Kateley. The motion passed unanimously.

2016 Buddy Track will take place May 4, May 11 and May 18 from 5:00-6:30 pm at the Valley Regional High School track. Volunteers have to be in eighth grade. All Commission members are urged to help out.

Woodcock presented a proposal for naming the baseball field at Plattwood Park after former First Selectman, Richard Smith. He proposed the name "Smitty's Field". He also presented sketches of a garden memorial located to the west of the backstop. The commission discussed other ideas, such as a red brick walkway. The Memorial could be partially funded by selling red bricks with an option to have them inscribed. Petroka made a motion to accept Woodcock's proposal and to inform the Board of Selectman about the Commission's vote. The motion was seconded by Dexter. The motion passed unanimously.

Dexter made a motion to adjourn at 9:43 pm, second by Scholfield. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be Wednesday, May 11, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephani Award, Secretary  
Deep River Parks and Recreation