



Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2016

Called to Order: 7:04 by Chairperson Justin Waz. Members present were Cristi Stroud-Downey, Sarah Kateley, Mary-Elizabeth Massey, Dave Berardis, Miriam Morrissey, Karen Dexter, Betsy Scholfield, Don Sampson and Leslie Sheehan. Members absent were: James Beardsley, Grace Petroka, Stephani Award, Kevin Crosby, Tania Crosby, James Cunningham and Brandon Woodcock. Carol Jones, Director, was also present.

Audience of Citizens: We had 2 audiences of citizens

Michael Berardis, a life scout, and a resident of Deep River spoke with the board members regarding his proposed Eagle Scout project. Last winter he proposed clearing a walking path at Plattwood Park but that project was not going to work. He now is proposing to build picnic tables and benches at Plattwood Park. There will be a total of 6-8 benches and 4-6 picnic tables and he will build them to comply with any ADA requirements. Michael will research this further as far as design, materials needed and costs, etc. and submit the information at a future Commission meeting. He would like to start in the spring of 2017.

Leigh Balducci is a Deep River town resident and typed up a letter regarding her concerns about Plattwood Park. Her concerns are that the non-residents that are visiting the park are abusing it. They are leaving garbage and not following the rules. Garbage is being left all around the park and grills are being brought in. She made a few suggestions regarding this issue such as posting the rules and regulations at the guard shack and putting a gate system at the guard shack. Jones explained that the Commission has heard from other Town residents as well and that she has been communicating with the First Selectman about this problem and they are working towards a solution.

Secretary's report was read and a motion was made by Morrissey to accept it and a 2nd motion was made by Sampson. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report was read and a motion was made by Sheehan to accept it and a 2nd motion was made by Sampson to accept. Motion passed unanimously.

Family Day and 5K – Jones reported that the registrations are slow for the 5K at this time. It does not seem to have the same interest as in years past. She is doing pink shirts this year in honor of former First Selectman, Richard Smith "Smitty". We are also having trouble getting sponsors. We are limited for parking for fireworks this year because of the baseball field and the lot across the street has been sold. The new owner will allow parking in some of the lot so that should help out. We are going to sell the glow sticks, water soda, candy and chips again from our shack. We are currently looking to secure a DJ for the event.

Summer Concerts – There are 2 more concerts left for this season. They end on August 18th. We had 2 rain outs that were held in the town hall so they were not well attended.

Bus Trips- We have a bus trip on October 12, 2016 for the Statue of Liberty. \$65.00 for adults and \$55.00 for seniors and students. Also on December 14th to Radio City Music Hall for \$125.00 per person includes bus. It's a Wednesday at 2p.m. We are looking for helpers.

Carnival – Massey said all went well and we would have a meeting in January for next year's carnival. Jones said we grossed \$5,015.74 and our profit was \$4,291.21.

Summer Camp Program – Going well and the last day is August 12, 2016. The committee is going to hold a wrap up meeting to go over program to see what went well and what needs improving. Jones said we had up to 60 kids per week. They are having a party for the staff and we will determine a bonus for the Directors. Brian Drinkard from DRES helped the last 2 weeks of camp. Thank you for all your help.

Summer Movies - Dexter said the movies at the beach are going well. Good turnout. There are 2 more weeks to go. Our video equipment needs to be upgraded.

Enrichment Program – We will stop doing the after school programs because the turnout is not that big but we will continue to do the play. We make a profit on the play but the after school programs cost us money and the DRES staff now has a budget so has been able to offer some programs in house.

Membership – Scholfield has been sending our brochures out to new residents and we still have openings to fill. Morrissey is doing a good job recruiting people.

Parks: Devitt/Plattwood/Landing and Brockway Ferry – Jones reported that First Selectman, McDonald is working on getting the playscape for Devitt field purchased this fiscal year. We are checking with Valley Football to see if they want the goal posts. Valley soccer will be practicing a few nights a week at Devitt. Little League is having fall ball so they will be there also. There is a softball tournament on August 27th & 28th. Sampson said the Gazebo at the landing is in need of painting. The stone wall was fixed and the deck on the lookout. Plattwood is in need of picnic table repairs. Misfit cruisers held a fundraising night with a free band on June 21st. Jones was on hand to pass a bucket in honor of Dick Smith and \$876.00 was collected and deposited into the *Richard Smith* memorial Fund. Chris's hot dogs gave us \$245.00 in revenue and we received \$426.95 from the Deep River Dog House. Jones will order a new partition for the men's bathroom. The brick walkway has been completed. No report on Brockway Ferry.

New Business: Jones requested that we appropriate funds so that J. Kastner, Town Hall employee, can purchase new letters for the sign board at Devitt as well as a new stand-alone portable sign board that has removal letters. They are used to advertise our programs. The estimate is approximately \$560.00. Newman made a first motion and Sheehan made a 2nd. It was approved.

Massey and Newman presented a new program idea that would allow high school students to run an open microphone night once a month utilizing the Town Hall Auditorium. The students would do all of the work and advertise. They will approach the students to get more details and ask them to attend an upcoming meeting to propose their idea.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:01 – 1st motion made by Morrissey. 2nd by Sampson. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, September 14th 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsey Scholfield, Vice-Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission