

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**May 5, 2015**  
MINUTES

**Call to Order**

6:00pm: Chairman Shute called the meeting to order

**Present:** Jeff Shute, Chairman; Jack Hutchinson, Ernie Robert and Melissa Robertson, Members

**Excused:** Julie DeCosta, Amy Harrington, Ken Heckman, and Brian Layton, Members

**Also Present:** Joe Manzi, Parks & Recreation Director

**Minutes of April 2015**

**Motion:** M. Robertson moves the minutes as written

**Second:** E. Robert

**Vote to approve: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Citizens Comments**

J. Manzi mentioned that he had asked Jim Deeley to come before the Commission to speak to his request to use the Passenger Van for use with the School. He has not heard back from Mr. Deeley yet.. M. Robertson asked about insurance and liability for non-employee use, the Commission will discuss the matter further when Mr. Deeley is present.

**Hartford Brook Field Updates**

Chairman Shute brought a map of the Hartford Brook property along with model fields cut to scale. The Commission agreed that there is no need to plan for a full size baseball diamond at Hartford Brook. J. Manzi spoke that the only teams currently using a field with 90 foot bases are the DCS team and Babe Ruth and that the facilities at the School are in fantastic shape, easily serving the needs of those two groups.

The Commission looked at tackling Hartford Brook in phases, looking to include a little league size diamond and a 50 X 300 ft soccer field. The next step will be to reach out to someone familiar with field maintenance and development. It was believed there may be a couple of local resources, J. Manzi will begin to reach out.

J. Hutchinson noted that use of the former Treem's field across from the Fairgrounds has also been in discussions recently. The Deerfield Bulldogs have been speaking with the Fair about it's use as a practice facility.

J. Manzi updated that the individual planning to make a donation to the Program is excited about the plans to use the money in the area of field development as she feels it would be well in line with her father's interests. The Department is expecting the funds in July and J. Manzi will be meeting with the Select Board to formally accept the money and present the plans for field development.

**Citizens Comments Continued**

Ms. Troi Hopkins asked how the money from the Deerfield Hoops Tourney has been tracked and what the funds were used for. J. Manzi answered that the tournament proceeds paid for all of the travel team expenses, for example entry fees into other area tournaments. Some of the proceeds were also returned to the School as a thanks for use of the facilities, this year the Tournament paid for half of the cost of some new runner mats. Additional use of the money went towards the purchase of a new hot dog steamer and covering expenses of the tournament, for example referee, staffing, shirts and trophies. Ms. Hopkins spoke that she was uncomfortable with the way the door money collection was handled and the lack of accountability from shift to shift of the cash on hand. She asked that it be considered further for next year.

Ms. Hopkins voiced her disappointment with the email that went out following Field Day. She was uncomfortable with the tone of the email and the focus that very few people attended, she felt the message should have lead

with a recognition of the volunteers that *did* attend and focus more on the positive of the day. She indicated that many of the other “bleacher parents” received the email as “snarky”. She spoke that she feels the concession stand at Bicentennial Field is dirty. Additionally, she was frustrated at how the Department had handled the Girl Scouts looking to do a Legacy Project. She felt that the Department had a list of items to be done, including field maintenance, drainage, and leveling, that was far outside the scope of what the troop would be able to do. She suggested painting as something that may be in line with the girls abilities. J. Manzi responded that he has been working with Nancy Gross on the Legacy Project, Ms. Gross had asked for ideas of what work needed to be done and Joe’s response was that any and all help would be appreciated. He added that he attended a recent meeting of the troop and felt that the interaction went extremely well.

J. Manzi encouraged citizens to speak *to* him, rather than *about* him, noting that it is the quickest way to address concerns or make a change. Ms. Hopkins voiced her appreciation for Mr. Manzi and the ability to share her comments directly with the Commission, she feels the focus needs to be on the positive programs that are happening within the Department. J. Manzi spoke that anyone interested in seeing a breakdown of the finances, for example the Tournament proceeds, can request it of him and he can provide. He added that it is unique to Deerfield that families were not charged even \$1 to participate in the travel programs.

Chairman Shute asked that Ms. Hopkins work with the Girl Scouts to put together a list of things that they can and would want to do at Bicentennial Field. Ms. Hopkins confirmed that they are working to put together a proposal or response of sorts. As a newly appointment member of the MBC she is looking forward to continuing these sorts of conversations.

#### **GBW Playground Update**

J. Manzi will be looking to confirm Sunday, June 14th for the build date of the GBW Playground. He has met with Lane from Ultiplay and Mark Young to discuss the demo of the existing structure. Additionally, Mark Tibbetts believes that he may be able to procure some of the old telephone poles to be used to prevent erosion. A list of the materials and equipment needed will be available for distribution prior to the build.

#### **Old Home Day**

J. Manzi has reached out to the Fair Association seeing permission to once again use the Fairgrounds for the fireworks and ice cream sales and to ask that they consider a donation towards the cost of the fireworks display. He included use of the facilities for Tailgate Trick-Or-Treat in the same request. M. Robertson confirmed that Andy will once again be on board for handling the Chicken at the BBQ. The date for Old Home Day is Saturday, August 15th.

#### **Joe Stone Scholarship**

J. Manzi shared J. DeCosta’s email that, in order for the scholarship recipient to be announced at the CHS Senior Night on June 2nd, the Commission needs to decide on the winner no later than Friday, May 15th. She will be checking with CHS to see if any further online applications were received. J. Manzi will circulate the application(s) received to Commission members for review and the group will look to reach a consensus by next Friday.

#### **Program Updates**

M. Robertson updated that Robertson Insurance Agency will not be sponsoring a team for this year’s Adult Co-Ed Softball league, nor will Andy be playing. J. Manzi updated that Family Nights will again be taking place at the gazebo throughout the Summer months.

#### **250th Anniversary**

E. Robert spoke that he met with members of the Historical Society to discuss the potential of holding a January Event to kick off the 250th Anniversary celebration. With January being just six months away he is looking to figure out what type of event would have the biggest attendance draw and to get firm commitments from groups of volunteers. The Commission was in support of working to plan a First Night activity along Church Street with a bon fire and Town Hall entertainment. E. Robert will look to form a firm committee at tomorrow night’s 250th Committee Meeting.

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** M. Robertson moves to adjourn the meeting of May 2015

**Second:** E. Robert

**All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourns at 7:05p**

**Next Meeting Tuesday, June 2nd @ 6:00pm**

*The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.*

*Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission*