

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
December 8, 2016
MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Present: Jeff Shute, Chairman; Julie DeCosta, Amy Harrington, Jack Hutchinson, Ernie Robert and Melissa Robertson, Members

Excused: Ken Heckman and Brian Layton Jack Hutchinson Member

Also Present: Joe Manzi, Parks & Recreation Director & Darrin Radatz, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director

Minutes of November 1, 2016

Motion: E. Robert moves the minutes as written

Second: J. DeCosta

Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Member A. Harrington was not present at the time of this vote

Citizens Comments

None

Assistant Director - Introduction Darrin Radatz

J. Manzi introduced Darrin Radatz to the Commission who started Full Time as the new Assistant Director on November 28th. Mr. Radatz described his background with the Forest Service, Americorps, and Bear Brook Youth Program among other positions. He asked the Commission to communicate to him the goals and objectives for the Department in 2017. Commission members welcomed Darrin and Chairman Shute noted the Hartford Brook Field Development project as among top priority for the coming year. E. Robert encouraged Darrin to look for ways to offer programming for the Senior population of Deerfield. Hiking, fishing and trail activities were also cited as areas where the Commission was interested in expanding program offerings.

Coffee House/Joe Stone Scholarship Wrap Up

The Coffee House was once again a success with approximately 130 attendees and some \$1,500 raised for the Joe Stone Scholarship. J. Manzi asked that the Commission consider in the coming months how to best award the scholarship, suggesting that perhaps one award of \$1,000 may be a good approach.

250th Anniversary Update

J. Hutchinson updated that he has put down hay bales at the Town Hall for the time capsule burial during the January 7th capstone event. He suggested that it would be valuable to have Deerfield kids write letters to the people 50 years in the future and that perhaps the After School Clubhouse Program kids at the 2nd and 3rd grade levels would be a good group to target. Members were in support of the idea. Other ideas for the time capsule contents included a driver's license, LL Bean catalog, hunting license, etc. The January 7th event will be similar to the event held January 8, 2016 with a meal at the church followed by a photo collage and gathering at the Town Hall.

J. Hutchinson spoke that the hope of the Committee is that the great job that has been done bridging all groups in Town will continue forward. He encouraged Darrin Radatz to implement programming that finds ways to solicit involvement from all groups and focus on "One Deerfield". The group raised some \$90,000 and anticipates that approximately \$12,000 will remain. The monies will be left to the discretion of the Parks & Recreation Department to carry forward with the mission. One event the Committee would like to see continued was the Variety Show.

2017 Warrant Article

J. Manzi reminded that the Commission will need to move forward with a Citizens Warrant Article if the goal is to have funds to match should they be awarded the LWCF Grant for the work at Hartford Brook. The deadline for Warrant Article submission is early January, the language from the 2016 Warrant Article will largely serve as the basis for this years request. J. Manzi will send drafts to J. Hutchinson to begin circulating and all agreed that the Warrant Article should pursue \$20,000.

Budget Committee Update

J. Manzi updated that the Parks & Recreation portion of the MBC meeting ran smooth, he feels the Committee has a strong understanding of the difference between the Revolving Account and the Budget. The Department's proposed budget was approved as presented.

Online Registration Update

J. Manzi spoke that they have begun meeting with the Online Registration vendor and will be holding trainings in January with a target go-live date of February 1st. The Department is very excited to be able to offer the technology for registrations, scheduling, reporting, etc.

Other Program Updates

J. Manzi recapped that the Veteran's Day ceremonies had a nice turnout with strong participation. Sit with Santa was a big success with record setting attendance. The Youth Basketball Program is off and running and a new session of Youth Wrestling is slated to start in January. Due to size limitations at the GBW some things, including wrestling and the toddler dance programs, will be moving to the Town Hall. J. Manzi mentioned that with the 250th events concluded in January they would like to bring back Winter Carnival, Members were in support and the event will be scheduled for February 25th.

J. Manzi asked whether the Commission would like to plan for Old Home Day to return to the traditional third Saturday in August this year, Members agreed that the Old Home Day will be Saturday, August 19, 2017.

Other programming updates include a return of adult volleyball, to start on Sunday mornings the second week in January. The Department is also looking to host a series of Open Gyms and Basketball clinics over the Winter.

Other Business

J. Manzi congratulated Commission Member Melissa Robertson for her being named official Photographer Laureate for the Town of Deerfield. Melissa thanked everyone for the big surprise.

Adjournment

Motion: E. Robert moves to adjourn the meeting of December 2016

Second: J. DeCosta

All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourned at 7:00p

Next Meeting Tuesday, January 3rd @ 6:00pm

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

Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission