

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes - August 18, 2009

Call to order: 7:10 pm

Present: Chairman Mike Horne, Dave Elliott, Marty Lennon, Corri Wilson,  
Dale Hemeon

Absent: Stuart Werksman, Joanne Burwell

Announcements: M. Lennon will be absent for September meeting (out of town).

Elections: M. Horne will continue as chairman for one more year.  
C. Wilson will serve as secretary.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the July meeting were approved (C. Wilson/M. Lennon 4-0-1)

Public Input:

1. M. Horne received an email from Kathie Northrup regarding the location of the proposed dog park, obstruction of river view due to overgrown foliage, and suggestion to clean up Lilac Bridge and plant lilacs at base on each side (lilac bushes are available free of charge from the state).

- D. Hemeon will be taking care of the trimming.

- C. Wilson suggested that as residents, dog owners would be enjoying the location and view at the dog park, so there was no issue here.

- M. Lennon said she contacted members of the Hooksett Garden Club who were unaware that lilac bushes were available free of charge from the state. D. Hemeon said that in the past, his crew did most of the planting when such activities took place; can we get the Garden club and more residents involved in making things like this happen.

2. C. Wilson had previously forwarded email to the board that resulted from the meeting that Town Administrator Carol Granfield held with residents. The list had several suggestions from residents that would fall under the auspices of this board. General discussion ensued.

- D. Hemeon shared how we used to have a winter carnival and other activities. His crew is interested in hosting and running a Halloween activity at Donati with hay rides, etc.

- M. Lennon suggested that for large-scale events we might consider co-sponsoring with other neighboring towns such as Allenstown and Candia.

- Another option is including schools and service organizations in town; at a minimum, we will want to coordinate so as not duplicate or conflict with efforts.

- C. Wilson mentioned doing a needs assessment in the form of a survey to residents. This would have us find out what people are interested in having P&R do. D. Hemeon and M. Horne have prior surveys – one from 1990 where D. Hemeon walked the entire town talking with people and the other which is part of the master plan from five years ago.

3. D. Hemeon received an email from a new resident asking about trails. We need to make an effort to get more recreation-related pages on the town website.

#### Old Business:

1. Fun in the Sun – In its last week. Great season. Numbers good.
2. D. Hemeon installed a chemical toilet at Donati in response to previous request about having bathrooms open more.
3. Sign posts – D. Hemeon has them and will have them up by the end of the month.
4. Research Recreation Director – C. Wilson did some research on other towns, what positions they have, what services they offer, employment status and salaries, etc. The board decided by consensus to have her do more research and work with D. Hemeon, who would like to put in a line item in his budget for a part-time recreation director for FY 10-11.
5. Review of plans M. Horne emailed everyone ahead of time. Town Common proposed at MSG development near Green's Marine. Anticipate 5-8 years out.

#### New Business:

None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7:00 pm

Meeting will adjourn so board members can visit sites for proposed dog park.

Adjourn: 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corri L. Wilson  
Board Secretary

Post-meeting notes: Board visited two sites: one at Lambert Park on Merrimack Street, and one further up the street at the District Court near the Amoskeag Rowing Club. The consensus was to put the dog park at the District Court. D. Hemeon will confirm details and get the process started. The benefits to this location include plenty of room, no residences nearby so it won't disturb any neighbors, area is lighted, nice views, and ample parking.