

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**October 19, 2010**

**I. Call to order:** 7:00 pm

**Present:** Chairman Marty Lennon, Dave Elliott, Susanna Hargreaves, Dan Paradis, Ray Miclette, Dale Hemeon, Jodi Pinard, Mike Horne

**Absent:** Jacqui McCartin

**Guests:** None

**II. Welcome and Agenda Review:** Marty Lennon welcomed and thanked attendees.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the September 21, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.  
(Motion Mike Horne, seconded: Dave Elliot Approved unanimously.)

**IV. Public Input:** None

**V. Recreation Report:** Jodi Pinard shared that there are several new great programs being made available for the community. Mommy & Me is a program for mothers with children aged newborn to three years of age. There will be a Haunted Trails to kick off Halloween weekend thanks to the generous volunteered efforts of Parks & Recreation employees. A family ski and snowboarding program for six weeks at Ragged Mountain is planned. In January, there will be a dodge ball league. There is a Challenger Sports night on Thursday nights for individuals with mental challenges. Furthermore, plans are underway for a Bingo night and a Monarch's Night. Information is to be posted on the Parks & Recreation website, in the newsletter that will be sent with tax information, and also in the Hooksett Banner. Also flyers were made for the local schools and library.

Dale Hemeon reported that the fields look good. The HYAA soccer and football teams are still going until the end of October. Everyone was in agreement that the parks look good. Dale reported that the tennis courts have been repaved and new fencing has been installed. A fresh coat of paint will be added in the spring.

Trail money and linking sidewalks are still ongoing. Dale reported that he is talking with the planning board over the possibilities. However, he said there is only one sidewalk plow to maintain the sidewalks and he is concerned about the need for a plan to ensure maintenance during the winter months. There is also concern for needing to repair the sidewalks which already exist. Dale said he is in favor of having sidewalks that can be used 8 months of the year. He plans to get more information from the town council to see if they are in favor of it.

Mike Horne asked about the progress of getting an assessment at Petersbrook field. Dale reported this is still in the works.

Ray Miclette asked about the HYAA fields and the desire to centralize sports to one location, especially making it more convenient with families with multiple players. The need for more athletic fields was addressed. Also, reconfiguring the fields and making better use of space available was broached. Dale mentioned that Hooksett has a beautiful Babe Ruth baseball diamond and there hasn't been Babe Ruth played for many years. He said it would be wonderful to bring back Babe Ruth baseball. It was in agreement that HYAA and Parks &

Recreation need to discuss the possibilities of field reconfigurations based on the needs of young players and families.

## **VI. Old Business:**

a. Recreation Web Site: Jodi Pinard reported that the webpage is nearly done. She reports it will be much more user friendly and informational. Ray Miclette shared that HYAA also has a new webpage and it would be helpful to include the link on the new webpage. Jodi agreed.

b. Winter Ice Rink: Ongoing. Dave Elliot shared the photos he took and emailed the board members of a possible site for an ice rink behind the Town Hall. Dale Hemeon reported that there are two concerns regarding the ice rink: 1. Lack of water due to there not being a hydrant and 2. A concern for the neighboring houses having any complaints. Also a concern is the upkeep of it. Dale said he thinks a rink will need to be refilled once a week. Dale said he will look into it and talk to Phil Parks & Recreation foreman about the possibility of having a 100x100 size rink. The board agreed that it would be nice to have the rink centrally located where it could be easily accessible. Another issue discussed is whether this would be just strictly used for skating or if hockey would be played. If hockey were allowed, ensuring helmet use and safety was another concern.

c. Rail Trail Update: Ongoing. Mike Horne reported that the grant written for expanding the trail from Concord to Manchester was approved today. There is continued discussion regarding Kiwanis and other community resources toward helping increase and maintain the trails. Mike Horne continues to address new ways to improve this possibility.

d. Conservation Commission and New Field: Ongoing. Dale discussed the focus of the conservation to obtain and use land for recreation. Furthermore, he shared how the conversation regarding this depends on overall budget constraints. He suggested being at the next meeting would answer more questions and help clarify this.

e. Update to Recreation 5-Year Plan: Ongoing.

f. Biking and Walking in Hooksett: Nothing new.

g. Old Town Hall Preservation and Recreation Needs: Ongoing. Nothing can be decided until the decision is made on what to do with the building.

h. Rowing Club / Dog Park parking: Dale addressed the tree that had fallen at the boat ramp due to a recent storm. Mike shared the possibility of how the removal of the tree has opened up more space and also the ramp needs some repair due to deterioration. Dale reports that the water level has to be down in order to repair it. There have been no complaints. Mike H. reports that the dog park is going well. The new gravel parking lot has helped with competition for parking by rowing club. Nothing new on the signs requested at an on-site meeting in the spring.

i. CTAP Update: Mike reported nothing new.

j. Capital Improvement Program (CIP): Dale said CIP meeting for Public Works and Recreation will be held at 7:30 on the same night next month to address revising open space plans and put together any new initiatives. He suggested the Board hold their meeting at the Town Hall to hear what is addressed. Marty Lennon was in favor of holding the next meeting at the Town Hall. Everyone was in agreement.

## **VIII. New Business:**

a. 2010 Budget Planning schedule: Dale suggested we attend the meeting next month at the Town Hall to make sure the board is aware of the budget decisions.

b. Properties with tax breaks for recreation: Mike Horne said he thought it would be a good idea to know what properties were given 20% tax reduction (recreation adjustment under Current Use). These properties should have more visibility to the public to use for recreation. Mike H. brought a map at the meeting to briefly show such properties, but more time is needed to address this more fully. However, more discussion on this will be needed in future meetings.

c. Park at pond behind Walgreen's. Ongoing. Mike Horne said he had seen in the Conservation Commission minutes where the son of the prior owner of the property was concerned nothing had been done to establish a park at the pond as his parents had been told would happen. Dale agreed that this could be turned into a nice park and it would be brought up at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at the Town Hall Chambers. Motion to conclude the meeting made by Mike Horne. Seconded by Ray Miclette.

**Adjourn:** adjournment at 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susanna Hargreaves  
(Board Secretary)