

August 2015 Minutes

The August meeting of the Litchfield Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Lisa Bauer at 7:02 p.m. In attendance were commissioners Lisa Bauer, Pam Orde, Ray Schmid, Ed Fabbri and Park and Rec Director, Brent Hawkins.

Approval of minutes: Pam moved to accept the minutes with Ray seconding. The motion passed.

Monthly Budget Report: The report was available to the commissioners for their inspection.

Comment from the Public: None

Commissioner Requests: Ed requested an update on the Block Party and Community Field. Ray requested the Northfield Community Field and the demolition project at Town Beach update and has information for a gazebo on the green.

Old Business:

Summer Camp: Brent said the camp had a very successful and fun summer with only one rainy day during the 9 week camp. Camp was relocated to Forman School because of asbestos removal at the firehouse. When asked about financial results from summer camp he stated that we probably broke even and received many compliments from parents about the camp staff.

Swim Lessons: Brent also was very happy with his swim instructors and the program went off without a hitch.

New Business:

Concerts: The concerts were very well received with 400-600 or more people there each week. We made new rules for safety reasons to eliminate Frisbees and balls being thrown and kicked and the throwing of any projectiles. Brent met with both Leo Paul and Lee Losee on separate occasions to help make the concerts safer and more enjoyable by implementing the new rules! Ray received a question from an attendee and suggested that we make announcements during the concert as to the whereabouts of the public restrooms for those unfamiliar with the area.

Senior Picnic: Brent reported that the senior picnic was well-attended and everyone in attendance had a great meal and a good time. The youth group from the Friendship Baptist Church helped out as waiters, waitresses, and bus people and line dancers for the event. Craig Miner, Leo Paul, Jon Torrant and Audrey Blondin came to help out, along with Eileen McKenna and Chris Alexander teaming with Brent and Lisa Beyer to put on the event.

Fall & Winter Brochure: The annual printing of the brochure is approaching as OWTS graphics students will print and staple our brochures as they have done for several years. We are finalizing our articles for the programs we need to advertise.

Commissioner's Requests: The Block Party seemed to be very well received in its new location according to Brent's report and several of the attendees agreed with his findings. Ray wanted to know if we pay the policemen, why the street was not blocked for the event and/or why the police did not at least direct walking traffic in the crosswalks. He also reported that the generators did not make any noticeable noise and no one was distracted by them during the band's performance. He also suggested the Borough to make sure the street lights and lampposts lights will all work for the events held in the evening as a key light was out for the Block Party. All feedback will be considered next year when planning the Block Party.

Northfield Community Field: The question has been raised as to why nothing has been done at the Northfield Field in reference to our capital project to improve drainage at the ball field, with a retaining wall and a new backstop. After much discussion as to priorities of the town and where this may fall, Pam made a motion: For Brent and Ray to meet with Leo Paul to discuss the prioritized projects. Ed seconded and the motion passed unanimously. They will set up a meeting with Leo and report back to the board their findings.

Gazebo: Ray has been speaking with selectman Jon Tarrant who is very much in favor of putting a gazebo up on the green to replace the information booth as well as a place for the band to play, and a storage area. Discussion ensued about the idea. Lisa, who also sits on the Borough Board, said the Borough is not against the idea and the project will need coordination between any and all parties that are interested in pursuing this project. This project is not part of the Park and Recreation 10-Year Plan, but Commissioners are willing to help should the project go forward.

Director's Report: The report was emailed to the board and all had read the report.

Adjournment: Ray made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ed seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

J. Brent Hawkins, Director