

Recreation Commission
March 5, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 6:14 pm with Commissioners Walley, Taylor, McCord, Welborn, and Rusich. Director John Hines was present. A number of guests were present to discuss the Outdoor Recreation Expo on May 18. These included: Marc Tate, Madeline Jeffery, Dick Cooper, Nita Kincaid, Mac Turner, and Pat Turner.

Public Comments – None.

February Minutes – A motion was made by Comm. Rusich to accept the minutes. Comm. Taylor seconds.

Financial Report – A motion was made by Comm. Taylor to accept the minutes. Comm. Rusich seconds.

New Business – Outdoor Recreation Expo

1. North Stonington Outdoor Recreation Expo to be held Saturday, May 18 from 9:30 am to 3 pm with the NS Elementary School Multipurpose Room as the main site. It is envisioned that activities will also occur throughout the day at other locations around town.
2. In February, Commissioner Rusich sent an invitation letter to a number of outdoor product vendors, asking them to participate in the expo. There was one response from the Groton Sportsmen's Club.
3. Madeline Jeffery will contact representatives for three of the Lake Associations in town to determine their interest in participating in the expo. Participation could include hosting a booth at the main site (NSES Multipurpose Room) or hosting an activity at one of the lakes.
4. Madeline had some additional ideas regarding activities for the day of the expo, but needed to contact additional people before providing more description.
5. Dick Cooper and Nita Kincaid represent the Hewitt Farm Committee. They indicated they would be interested in hosting a booth at the main site, as well as an activity at Hewitt Farm. They suggested a fishing demonstration as one possibility. They noted that no commercial vendor sales are allowed at the Hewitt Farm property. Non-profit groups can make sales.
6. Mac and Pat Turner represent the Avalonia Land Conservancy. They are interested in hosting a booth at the main site and would schedule a hike at one of the Avalonia properties in town. They suggested a hike at the Parke Memorial preserve on Babcock Road.
7. Marc Tate will provide North Stonington trail maps for distribution on the day of the expo. He has been working with Bill Richer to prepare a map of public trails in town.
8. Food ideas were suggested, and it was stated that the Lions Club and the Congregational Church have provided food for past activities in town.
9. The April Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2. Everyone was invited to return to that meeting to provide information about activities that can be scheduled for the expo.
10. There is an information session planned for Saturday, April 6 by the Plan of Conservation and Development Steering Committee. It was suggested the Recreation Commission could host a table at the session, providing recreation information and advertising the May 18 Outdoor Recreation Expo.

Old Business

1. Group tickets to see the Paw Sox can be purchased online at any time. The Commission could purchase tickets and then advertise the event, with the possibility that not all tickets would be sold. It was decided to focus on the Outdoor Recreation Expo this year. A Paw Sox outing could be considered again in 2014.
2. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 30 at 10 am. Commissioners assisting with the egg hunt are asked to be at the recreation area at 9:30 am. All eggs will have toys this year.
3. Emily Hayes is organizing a summer tennis clinic. She prepared a grant application that will cover approximately half the costs of painting additional lines on the courts. The lines are designed for younger children, but do not distract adult tennis players using the courts. The permanent lines mean there is no need to use different nets on the courts.
4. Comm. Perkins will prepare a flyer to advertise the Lions Locker Room. It was agreed that items can be stored in the shack at the Rec Area (upstairs). Donations to be accepted beginning May 1. Comm. Taylor will determine if a drop off bin can be arranged at the NS Transfer Station. The plan is to host the first swap later in the year before fall sports begin.
5. The Wheeler High School Print Shop did a terrific job on the spring brochure. Total cost was \$75 and they completed the job in one week. Brochures were dropped at the post office on Monday, March 4 and sent out on Tuesday, March 5.
6. Commission members will be getting badges and shirts to wear at public events. Pictures were arranged and white shirts will be ordered by Director Hines.

Additional discussion about the Outdoor Recreation Expo

1. A successful expo will take good planning. Information about participating groups, number of tables, and space requirements will need to be available for set up on the day of the event.
2. Comm. Rusich will visit Watch Hill Outfitters and Ray Willis in Westerly to personally invite them to participate in the Outdoor Recreation Expo. Director Hines will visit Lees Toy and Hobby in Groton and the Mystic Cycle Centre to invite them to participate as well. As previously noted, the Groton Sportmen's Club is interested in participating.
3. A list of possible activities for the expo includes: fishing trips, canoeing demonstrations, kayaking demonstrations, Parke Memorial hike, Hewitt Farm activity, Casting demonstration, pond dipping (Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center activity), yoga demonstration.
4. Comm. Welborn will contact John Bradshaw to determine if the Boy Scouts are interested in participating in the expo. They could assist with scheduled hikes, or lead a hike of their own at a location in town.

A follow-up planning meeting is set for Tuesday, March 19 at 5 pm. A schedule for expo activities will be developed on that day.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.