

North Stonington Recreation Commission
March 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 6:17 pm with Director John Hines and Commissioners Comeau, McCord, Robert, Rusich, Taylor, and Welborn. Reporter Anna Isaacs from *The Day* was present for the entire meeting.

February minutes – A correction was made to the date for counselor interviews (May 22 rather than March 22). A motion was then made and passed to accept the minutes from the February meeting.

Financial Report – The Financial Report was reviewed.

- Arthur Doble is going to take a break over the summer from the chess program and hopes to resume in the fall. There were 10 participants for the winter program.
- It still seems likely there will likely be unspent funds at the end of the budget year.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report.

Correspondence – The following correspondence was reviewed and discussed:

- A thank you letter was received from the company that supplied the medals for the preschool basketball program.
- The NSPTO basket raffle will be held on Friday, March 28. The commissioners voted to donate two gift certificates as door prizes. The gift certificates cover the registration fee for one week of Playground Camp and one week of Kiddie Camp for the upcoming summer.

Old Business

1. Commissioner McCord will decide no later than the April meeting if she will return as the director of Playground Camp for the upcoming summer. Once that decision is made, there may be a need to convene a short meeting of the Rec Commission to determine a plan to post and advertise for a new director for Playground Camp.
2. Comcast came to the Holly Green complex to install the new phone line and it was discovered that the connection to the building is at the east end and that the line would need to run through several offices to reach the Rec Commission suite. Comm. Welborn requested a copy of the last AT&T bill for review. There may be items that can be trimmed from AT&T monthly service to reduce the phone charge.
3. The Outdoor Recreation Expo is scheduled for Saturday, May 3. Events at Hewitt Farm are expected to include:
 - Huck Finn Fishing Tournament from 7:30 to 9 am
 - Karate Demonstration – TBD
 - Archery instruction – TBD

Kayaking and Canoeing will be available at Wyassup Lake. Comm. Welborn will contact Bill Ricker to determine the best time to schedule the water activities at Wyassup Lake. If the water level at Hewitt Pond is high enough for canoeing, one or two canoes may be provided at Hewitt Farm for families to use during the morning.

One or two hikes will be scheduled at other town locations. Comm. McCord will contact Mike Costanza to see if he is interested in leading a hike again this year. Comm. Welborn will contact Maggie Jones from the DPNC to find out if she is interested in leading another hike in town. Her hike along the Trolley Loop was the most popular hike in 2013.

There are activities which can be included at Hewitt Farm for the morning, including a birds of prey program, Wild over Wildlife with Heather Rourke, K-9 unit from the Stonington Police Dept, Land Alliance activities, and food from the NS Lions.

New Business

1. Director Hines visited the Stonington COMO to learn more about the program they use for online registration. It is available from formstack.com. A subcommittee was formed (Director Hines, Comm. Comeau, Comm. Robert, and Comm. Welborn) to meet sometime after the April meeting to discuss using formstack.com for the NS Rec Commission registration. It was recommended by Director Hines that everyone visit the formstack.com website to learn more about what they can provide for online registration.
2. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 19. Comm. Comeau is going to purchase candy and small items for the eggs. The eggs have been received and will be distributed at the Rec Commission meeting in April. Eggs need to be filled prior to the hunt.
3. Lori Taylor would like to donate 2,100 eggs that can be used for the Easter Egg Hunt in 2015.
4. *First Tee* is a golf program for children offered at the Elmridge Golf Course. Director Hines will contact the golf course staff to find out more about the program at the golf course and perhaps include First Tee as a summer program.
5. The commissioners briefly discussed posting signs to make the rec field on Rocky Hollow Road a tobacco-free area. The commissioners agreed that smoking is not currently a problem. If it becomes an issue in the future, this topic can be revisited for further discussion.
6. The commissioners will donate one week of Playground Camp and one week of Kiddie Camp to the auction at the North Stonington Christian Academy.
7. A question was raised about special needs children and whether the Playground or Kiddie Camp offers anything appropriate for them during the summer. The school provides services during the school year, but the Playground and Kiddie Camp programs do not.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 3 at 6:15 pm.