

Parks and Recreation Commission
7:00 pm, Wednesday, October 8, 2014
Groton Senior Center
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners: Jim Kamercia, Phil Butta, Jeff Zuliani, June Evered

Staff: Mark Berry, Jerry Lokken (attending intermittently between this meeting and the RTM meeting)

Guests in Attendance: None

III. Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns

None. The Chair voiced a reminder that this issue should be listed as number IV at the next meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2014

Motion to approve made by Phil Butta, seconded by Jeff Zuliani.

Discussion repeated that this issue should be entered as number III at our next meeting.

The minutes were then approved unanimously.

V. Town Council Referrals.

None

VI. Correspondence/Communications.

A. Commissioners

Jeff reported that there is a large area in the center field at Poquonnock Plains Park that has become damp and marshy. Jeff assumes that this is from hard use and also that it is the end of the season. ~~Phil agreed that field hockey can tear the fields up.~~ *omit.*

Phil reported that he and Jerry ran the 10K mixed doubles race on Sept. 27, 2014. 87 teams participated. The race made about \$2,000 for the Town. Phil felt that the impression people gave was that the race was a fun event rather than competitive. ~~Matt Brown of Fitch ran with his sister who had two replacement hips.~~ Mark added that a survey sent out after the race was very positive. Phil felt that the ^{FINISH LINE} course could have been straightened out a bit and that he heard a few comments about the road planning. Amby Burfoot is to visit Parks and Recreation next week to discuss the race. Phil said that September is a good month for a Groton Long Point race as the seasonal people have gone home and there is less traffic. There was some discussion on the 4 pm time. Jerry felt that the later start worked well as the runners ended up at The Fisherman restaurant. The awards were announced at the Fisherman and the restaurant gave each runner a bowl of chowder.

Jim asked when the hearing on charging a fee for use of the athletic fields will be held.

VII. Reports

A. Director of Parks and Recreation - Mark Berry

Mark attended a pre-bid session for the Copp Property trails.

Mark also attended the presentation on the Merritt property fields before the Town Council. Even though E-mails were sent out, attendance was poor. A couple did come forward who want to commit to moving this project forward.

B. Monthly Reports – Parks and Recreation

Mark reported that the Groton Senior Center received re-accreditation. Only 8 of the 167 centers in Connecticut are accredited. Phil felt that this news deserved a press release. Mark replied that Club 55 paid for this accreditation. They will be holding their annual meeting on November 4, at which time there will be a press release. They have invited the Mayor. The Center was recognized for the Internet Café, the Elegant Dinners program and the Fitness Center, among others.

The Fall Festival is being held this weekend at Poquonnock Plains Park. Parking and shuttle buses are available at Ella Grasso Tech.

C. Golf Course Report/GAB – Jim

The Golf Advisory met this month. They discussed repairs and course alterations. The pricing issue came up again. Now that the mechanism for surveys is in place, they plan on sending out a survey on possible 9-hole memberships. The discussion on pricing for junior golfers came up again. Jim spoke with a group who felt that junior golfers shouldn't have to pay at all. The junior golfer age is under 21. The club has only 19 junior golfers. We need to develop young golfers.

Mark added that the correct total for FY2014 season passes is 223. Membership is down but play is up. What happen is that members don't play golf when it rains so the watering costs go down, but when it is dry and they do play golf, watering costs increase.

D. Master Plan Committee – Mark Berry

Mark met with the committee. The group had been provided with a list of potential projects to tackle. Lisa Luck and Kathryn Brown-Tracy expressed an interest in doing research into grants.

E. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) Update – Phil

The RTM tonight voted 30-0-0 in favor of providing the \$61,000 for the new adaptive dock for Spicer Park. The BAB last met on Sept. 18 to discuss service management

for the new dock. This new dock will provide the handicapped improved access and entry into the boats. A decision was made that the Town of Groton will manage the adaptive side and that NRC will manage the rowing. There will be a public dedication when the dock is installed.

Bill Grady described this year's Small Boat Day "successful to exhaustion. The biggest small boat day ever." The tie-in with the Parks race really helped.

F. Trails Coordinating Task Force - June

There was no quorum but those present decided to hold an informal meeting. Please see Attachment A for details.

VIII. Old Business

Master Plan Committee – Goals

See VII D

IX. New Business.

A. Meeting Schedule for 2015

Discussion that Commission meetings will continue to be held in 2015 at 7 pm on the second Wednesday of each month with the exception of July, during which month there will be no meeting. Motion to approve made by Phil Butta, seconded by Jeff Zuliani.

The motion was approved unanimously.

B. CIP Proposed Projects 2016

Mark will send these out by E-mail.

X. Next Meeting Date Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 7 pm. Groton Senior Center.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by ^{omit} ~~Phil~~ Jeff Zuliani, seconded by Phil Butta. Approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

w/ changes

Signature



Date

11/12/14