

Parks and Recreation Commission
7:00 PM Wednesday, November 18, 2015
Groton Senior Center
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

7:00 pm

II. Roll Call

Commissioners in Attendance: Jim Kamercia, Jonathan Grossman and Jeff Zuliani

Staff: Mark Berry

Guest in attendance: Mike Buonano

Absent: June Evered

III. Approval of Minutes: October 14, 2015

Motion to approve amended minutes was made by Jonathan, seconded by Jeff.

Approve unanimously.

IV. Citizens Petitions and Comments

Mike brought up Kate Bradley spoke about parks and open space. Positive experience.

Topics:

- Not everyone knew the parks and open space areas.
- Lack of a community center in town.
- Cost of programs—parents are taking children to other towns to play

V. Town Council Referrals

None

VI. Correspondence/Communications

A. Commissioners

Brochure that Senior Center puts out is appreciated but it is tough to read and the photos are of poor quality. Mark replied that we get it printed for free and it might have to do with the paper stock. Ask to see if it is more economical to do it in black and not color. Mark replied that he feels that it is too busy. Not crisp and sharp. Mark is looking to bring that in-house to sell advertising and send out for printing. The color is supposed to change each month. The green has been for the past few months, so Mark is aware of it.

Jim heard about the Town offering to purchase the concession stand equipment at Poquonnock Plains from football. Mark said he wanted to find a vendor to open the concession stand more regularly. Currently working on a RFP to use a space to supply food items on a regular basis. Conversation ensued about the concession stand.

VII. Reports

A. Director of Parks & Recreation

1. The Town is getting another 16 acres of open space from a developer. Adjacent to Bel Aire Park off of Flanders Rd. Donated. Has a retention pond. Water from development (rain-off) is running into this pond. There is a trail around the area. We will be mowing along the sides. Already mowing the park in Bel Aire.

2. Mark received phone calls from people walking in Pequot Woods. Some people are letting their dogs off leash and they are jumping on people. There is no law in CT that dogs have to be on leash, but Mark is ordering a sign that will state, "Dogs must be under voice control or on leash at all times". New London has adopted a law that dogs must be on leash. Mark said that owners are just letting the dogs on leash without holding on to it.
3. Mark received an email about Poquonnock Plains park and noise control. Mark suggested moving the Sunday game back a half an hour. Person lives behind the fieldhouse. GMF will work with the Parks and Rec on possibly moving the time back. Problem is later in the season when day-light is pressing.
4. Kiosk at the entrance of the Copp Family Park.
5. RFP being written to replace the stone walls in the Deerfield residential area.
6. Marketing - Kate has been working on that and the report will be coming out.
7. GBA League running. Sponsors have given \$200 to cover costs of shirts and printing. 23 teams. Jim inquired if referee costs come out of that. Mark stated yes. Jonathan inquired about registration. Mark stated the time span. Jonathan stated that he did not hear positive things about the program. All players play, run by volunteers, like other sports. Many kids go to New London to play. Not sure if they are charged for being out-of-town. The City has put out their programs. They have done an instructional program in the past.
8. Rec held a two-day karate event. 119 people enrolled. People came from New York, Mass, and New Jersey. Sensei Gene Villa from New Jersey. Program was offered last spring and they will be offering twice a year. Jim inquired of cost. Mark did not know.
9. Received \$1000 from Chelsea Groton foundation for scholarships. Jim inquired if there was anything in the paper about it. Mark thought Chelsea did a press release.
10. Groton Parks Foundation. Senior Center will be running "Walk with Ease" in the Spring. For those that struggle with mobility.
11. Senior Learning Network will begin in January. Received \$ from Chelsea for a Smart tv and other equipment to be able to listen and interact with a presenter, such as NASA, National Park Service, and museums across the country. First Senior Center to offer this program in the state.
12. Putting down new sod at Poquonnock Plains and the high school. Fitch is paying for the sod and Parks and Rec is putting it down.

B. Golf Course Report / GAB – Jim

Mark presented the P/L statement for October 2015. Revenue was down from last October. Course has been closed more days compared to last year. Other projects will commence in the near future. More signage suggested on the corner, but something is needed on the other side. Above the bulletin board or something around there. Suggestions ensued.

C. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) Update

Officially acknowledging that Phil Butta has resigned. Jim thanks Phil for his service and dedication to the Commission. Someone is needed from the commission to attend the Boating Advisory Board at 6 pm at the Spicer House. Jonathan was volunteered to attend depending.

D. Trails Coordinating Task Force – June (sent in her absence)

The Trails Coordinating Task Force met on October 22, 2015. As most of the original objectives have been met, the group agreed to meet less frequently. 2016 meeting dates agreed to by all are March 24, June 23, September 22 and December 1.

At the Task Force meeting Mark asked the group to assist in prioritizing proposed CIP projects. The top four projects agreed on unanimously are, in order:

1. Repairs to pedestrian bridge at Cutler, \$30,000;
2. 10' paved trail from Knoxville to Depot Road, \$35,000;
3. Improvements to the Lily Lane bike path, \$280,000;
4. Improvements from Knoxville to Sutton Park trail, \$48,000.

The new trail on the Copp property is now 90% complete. Ribbon cutting will be held on April 22, 2016.

June's report stated that Joan Smith reported to the Task Force that the State is buying the Tilcon property and GOSA will be managing it. The State is providing insurance. GOSA also received a grant for the Lamb farm.

Jenna Gosselin, of the Town, demonstrated a new inter-active apps website that she is working on. This website is amazing. See: maps.groton-ct.gov/apps/WebAppsViewer.

E. Athletic Fields

Meeting to be held with Kent and Frost and the Director of Planning on Monday, November 23, 2015, to review the proposal, economic impact study, at the Annex. Those that will be in attendance will be Kent and Frost, Mark, and Town Planner. Jim states that it is on the fore front and could Mark get a report in stages with a timeline. Reason being is that community members are excited about the proposal of additional fields and we would like to provide as much information as possible. The Commission is anxious for the report.

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Boating Advisory Board – Member Reappointment

Beth Robinson, current member, term is up 12/15/15. Advisory board has made a recommendation to reappoint her. Motion made by Jim to reappoint Beth Robinson. Jeff seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Boating Advisory Board – Expansion of Board

There has been a lot of work on the trails and would like to develop a "Blue" trail for boaters, kayakers and such. Looking for someone that has experience in this area. The current board has enough to work on with other projects. BAB has passed a motion to expand the Board for this purpose. Has requested an addition to the Board by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Currently the BAB is made up of 6 members. They have not specified a number of additions. Jeff inquired if they had anyone in mind. Mark does not think that they do. Discussion about the increase in Board members. Motion made by Jim to increase the Board by one member for a total of 7 with the stipulation of they do the research and find someone that serves their needs. No second. Discussion ensues. Mike provided more information. Jim concerned about an addition more than a one or a few people would change the focus of the Board. Blue trail defined for waterways. Mike was asked about his experience with kayaking and paddle boarding. Mike explained his interest in expanding the offerings at Spicer Launch. Discussion about addition to the Board. Jim makes a motion to expand the Board by 3 people and keep a total of 9. Jeff seconds. Motion passes.

C. Copp Board – Camping Policy

Boy scouts approached Parks and Recreation for an area to do a group camping area. The problem is that there are rules and regulations that have to go through the Parks and Recreation Commission for change. Mark with working with Ledge Light Health District to figure out the toilet issue. At this point, there is no reason to change any camping rules until toilet issues are handled.

IX. New Business

A. Golf Survey Results

Mark will send us the results. Jim inquired about breakfast responses. 54% said they would want breakfast. 7% undecided 39% was not interested. Bunkers talked about.

B. Golf Advisory Board - Appointments of Ken Wetmore and Margaret Hirsch to Resident vacancies
Jonathan made a motion to accept both Ken and Margaret. Jim seconded. Motion accepted.

C. Golf Advisory Board – Review and vote of Membership Expiration and Updated Purpose Statement
Mark reports on the request. Parks and Recreation Commission discussed in May 2012. Commission held a meeting in June, but minutes were lost. There was no approval of the expiration dates found.

Terms were created and nothing had been approved. Suggested terms presented. Jeff made a motion to accept the proposed Golf Advisory Board term expiration dates. Jonathan seconded. Motion accepted.

Golf Advisory Board proposed an updated purpose statement of "The purpose is for resident and non-resident golfers to be an advocacy group for Shennecossett Golf Course and furthermore assist the Parks and Recreation Department in implementing their mission for Shennecossett." Motion made by Jeff to approve. Seconded by Jonathan. Motion approved.

D. Trails Coordinating Task Force Extension

Targeted to expire January 1, 2016. They have asked to meet quarterly and continue their work. Jonathan made a motion to allow the Trails Coordinating Task Force to meet quarterly. Jeff seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion passed.

E. Boating Advisory Board – Liaison

Jonathan will attend the next meeting.

X. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 - 7:00 PM at Groton Senior Center

XI. Adjournment

Meeting finalized at 9:17 am.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

Signature



Date

1/13/16