

Parks and Recreation Commission
7:00 PM Wednesday, March 9, 2016
Groton Senior Center
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Jim Kamercia, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

II. Roll Call

Commissioners: Jim Kamercia, June Evered, Jonathan Grossman, and Jeff Zuliani

Staff: Mark Berry

Guests: Mike Buonano and Cindy Barry, LLHD

III. Approval of Minutes: February 10, 2016

Motion to approve the minutes was made with amendments made by Jonathan and seconded by Jeff. Approved unanimously.

IV. New Business-Motion made to move LLHD presentation to next by Jim. Seconded by Jeff.

Vote to approve - unanimous.

Cindy Barry presented information pertaining to farmers market in the City of Groton. Federal grant was approved for the Farmers Market-July 5 thru October 25. The market will accept WIK and EPT cards.

They will be working with local schools (Ledyard VoAg, Grasso BET, Fitch High School, and STEM school), local farmers and businesses. Working with Park and Recreation for senior transportation to market. Working with UCONN senior health care. July 26 is a family day. Will offer many different goods. Nature Center. Rolling Tomato. August 23 is a senior day. Local authors will be there. Pharmacist to look at senior medication, skin care, hydration, etc. Cindy wanted to let us know what they would be doing.

Questions for Cindy:

- Jim: organic/non-organic.
Cindy explained the better than organic concept.
- June: How many farms will be there?
Cindy: 4 farms - Vendor fee is \$100 for the season. Daily fee would \$16.
- Jeff: Advertising?
Cindy noted Parks and Recreation and the City are helping to advertise. Also looking for more options.
Jeff spoke about the foot traffic at Washington Park and the organizations that utilize the park. Advertisements will be handed out with beach passes. Discussion on strategies for advertising.

V. Citizens Petitions and Comments

Mike B inquired about the Boating Advisory Board vacancies. Discussion about the meeting schedule took place between Mike and Mark. Mike was informed that he would have to wait for a few weeks until the committee meets again.

Mike asked about the costs of using Spicer House. Mark responded that the expenses surrounding Spicer come out of the Public Works budget. Mike inquired about possibilities to propose a business plan to utilize Spicer House. Mark responded that he anticipated that Parks and Recreation would still be in Spicer House a year or so. Programs will be moved to Fitch Middle prior to Administration. Programs on the Spicer property are proposed to expand with the Marine Science Magnet school developing a rowing club.

Mike inquired about the amount of people (specific classes) that have utilized the property. Jim and Mark directed Mike to seek the information from Jerry.

VI. Town Council Referrals
None

VII. Correspondence/Communications
A. Commissioners
None

VIII. Reports
A. Director of Parks & Recreation

Mark has been meeting with the Mayor and Town Council concerning sub-century events. Baseball/softball games with officers vs enlisted, Movie in the Park, doing something with the Schooners, and event at a Thursday concert (Navy boat at concert at Esker Point Beach). Jim suggested having a photo contest to reenact the sailor kissing the girl from Life Magazine.

Meeting with Town Manager to open up parks to mobile food vendors. Pieces have to be put in place to allow this to happen such as signage, zoning, etc. to be done at Poquonnock Plains Park, Sutton Park, Farquhar, and Esker Point. Not in the fall for Poquonnock Plains Park as not to compete with football, but during the week there are many opportunities to generate revenue. Jeff inquired about the type of vendors. Mark reported vendors would be varied, so they would not compete with each other, such as hot dog, ice cream and another vendor.

Mark reported on the progress of fixing the items that were noted on the playground audit. About 80% done.

Copp Property is being worked on by Public Works.

Focus group was conducted with online customers. Changes have been made from the feedback. On-line registration was modified and has been down since last weekend due to migration of registration software.

Mystic Irish 5K Roadrace coming up. 214 current runners. Up from last year. Race with Laces fundraiser added this year. Monies raised are going to support the scholarship fund. Working with Kelly's Pace and getting bright green laces. So far, 100 runners have purchased laces.

Speed Dating event was very successful. Written up in the Day.

"Senior" Prom scheduled for April 23, 2016.

Commission position posting was never advertised by Town Clerk. Has been posted on Parks & Recreation Facebook and Channel 2, GMTV.

Mark checked on the history of language classes that have been offered. It had not been successful.

Mark looked at the study for Economic Growth and reported areas that pertained to Parks and Recreation: 25-34 year olds make up 34% of the town's population. Discussion ensued.

Quality of Place: Parks and recreation is critical in supporting growth. Discussion ensued.

- B. Golf Course Report / GAB – Jim
Have not met this month. Golf course has been busy due to weather. Current year to date is \$55,000 ahead of last year.
 - C. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) Update
Has not met
 - D. Trails Coordinating Task Force – June
No meeting
 - E. Athletic Fields
Mark has data from 2 sites and has had a conference call with consultant.
Many places have not wanted to share info.
Falmouth, ME and Essex, VT have reported back.
Town has submitted to the State a list of properties of potential sites if Middle School is built on the Merritt site. First site (not in any order) was the Ackley property.
- IX. Unfinished Business
June inquired about certain aspects of Mark's report-GPF and MOU. Mark explained.
GNOG Show at the Senior Center was talked about.
- X. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 - 7:00 PM at Groton Senior Center
- XI. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn made by June and seconded by Jeff. Meeting over at 8:00 pm.

Minutes have been accepted and approved.

Signature



Date

