

# **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2014**

## **Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Meghan O'Connor, Laura Ferguson, Patrick Morton, Bill Pullan, Rachael McGrath and Eileen Earle.

**ABSENT:** Angelo Franzese, Gary Regan, and Lou Valenti

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meghan O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of the minutes for December 11, 2013 were accepted on a motion by Laura Ferguson, seconded by Pat Morton, and then approved by all members present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME:** The Expenditures Report was reviewed and Mrs. Earle stated that the overtime amount still needed to be adjusted. The Cash Balance Report was then reviewed. Income for this January was added to this report and shows an \$12,000 increase from this time last year.

On a motion by Pat Morton, seconded by Bill Pullan the Accounts Payable, Payroll and Income were accepted and unanimously approved by all members present.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Request received from Bethel Youth Lacrosse to have a 5k on April 12. The race would start at 9:00 a.m. and would follow the same route as St. Mary's Race. The race will be over before the Easter Egg Hunt starts at 10:00 a.m. After some discussion it was decided to approve the BYLA race application. Mrs. Earle will inform the Police Dept. of the race.

**PROGRAMS:** All winter programs are going well and should be ending in February. Basketball is also running smoothly and will end in 5 weeks. The Ski program has been cancelled due to lack of interest, but the Middle School as well as St. Mary offer students the opportunity to ski at Mohawk. The spring flyer is on line and will go to the schools this week. Spring Registration for programs starts on Feb. 8.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Maintenance – Weekly snow removal.
- Bennett Park – the Parks and Rec. Dept. have assumed the responsibility of the application process from the First Selectman's Office for the reservation of this park for special events/picnics. Reservations for use of the park will start on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Programs – In March there will be indoor clinics for Youth Leagues.

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

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**ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES:** The Town Attorney, Marty Lawlor, has reviewed the guidelines and drafted a Facility Use Agreement which the Associations will be required to sign each season. Discussion followed concerning the amount of fines to charge the Associations for not following the procedures set forth in the guidelines. Decision made is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> violation: written warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> violation: \$150 fine, 3<sup>rd</sup> violation: banned from using field.

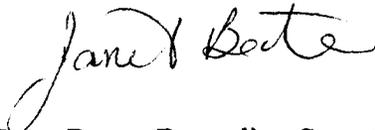
**DOG PARK:** Mrs. Earle met with the Girl Scout leaders to discuss the Dog Park proposal. Rules will be posted at the entrance, dogs need to be up to date on their vaccinations and have a town dog license. When the parking permits are implemented the parking sticker will include the dog entry permit. The permits will only be available to obtain at the Parks and Rec. Office. The Health Dept. reviewed the Dog Park proposal and researched a number of dog parks in the area and made some good recommendations. Mrs. Earle will also meet with Steve Shanley, the Bethel Dog Warden to review the proposal with him. Insurance will be obtained through the town and will cost approximately an extra \$1,000 per year. The director will also get a quote for fencing and water.

**PARKING PERMIT:** The Commission discussed the implementation of parking permits for Meckauer Park. The permits would be free to town residents with proof of residency. Non-residents will be charge a fee, which has not been determined yet. A Parks and Rec. employee will be posted at the entrance to the park during peak usage times. All permits will be obtained at the Parks and Rec. office only. Permit info will be mailed to all residents and sent to the schools. This information will also be posted on the Parks and Rec. website [www.bethel-ct.gov](http://www.bethel-ct.gov) .

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Pat Morton made a motion which was seconded by Bill Pullan to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next Parks and Rec. Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, **February 26, 2014** at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Beote, Recording Secretary