

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014

Minutes

PRESENT: Meghan O'Connor, Laura Ferguson, Patrick Morton, Bill Pullan, Gary Regan, Lou Valenti, Rachael McGrath, and Eileen Earle.

ABSENT: Angelo Franzese

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the minutes for August 27, 2014 was accepted on a motion by Pat Morton, seconded by Gary Regan, abstained by Lou Valenti then approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME: Expenditures Report; Adjustments will be made to account 5404, Capital Construction. Cash Balance Report shows a \$5,447 increase over this time last Sept. On a motion by Gary Regan and seconded by Lou Valenti, the Accounts Payable, Payroll and Income were accepted and unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PROGRAMS: Fall Programs started this week with just a couple of classes cancelled. Rachael will consult with the Instructors regarding offering them for the winter session. The Basketball travel tryouts were evaluated by the High School Girls Basketball Coach and went well. Rachael will meet with the coaches on Monday, Sept. 29, and a letter will be sent out on Tuesday. Discussion followed concerning the 6th grade tryouts which had the largest number of students trying out.

Winter Programs are also being planned. Due to low enrollment the weekly ski program will be cancelled for this winter and Rachael will plan 1 or 2 special ski trips instead.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- High School Sports and the Youth Sports are in full swing.
- BYSA U-9 thru U-14 Columbus Day Tournament to be held Sat., Oct. 11th and Sun., Oct. 12.
- Eileen met with the Garden Club to consult with them on the Blue Star Garden they are planning for the green by the Sycamore. They plan to have the garden ready for the Memorial Day Parade.
- At the next Commission Meeting we will be reviewing the Bennett Park Rules & Regulations and fee changes for reserving the park. Changes will be presented to the Board of Selectmen.
- Eileen informed the commission that the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen have been meeting to discuss how all the departments can save the town money. There will be public meetings in the future.
- Stony Hill Property; this is 4.4 acres available to the town to be used as open space. Discussion followed concerning this property and the best use for this open space. A motion was made by Pat Morton, seconded by Gary Regan to send a letter to Matt Knickerbocker urging the Board of Selectmen to pursue to have this open space given to the Town of Bethel as this is the only viable parcel of land available for a multipurpose athletic field. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved by all members present.

RECEIVED

2014 SEP 26 A 10:41

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

DOG PARK: Mrs. Earle will be presenting October 7th to the Board of Selectmen the proposal to allocate the property behind the storage building/bathrooms at Meckauer Park as the location for the future Bethel Bark Park. The commission reviewed the map and pictures of the area.

- The swings and telephone pole will be removed.
- The well is located outside of the proposed park.
- The gravel entrance path/double gate area will be paved to make it handicap accessible.
- The old basketball cement square will remain and be used for the water area.
- Scouts will help to build benches.
- Girl Scouts have raised half the required \$8,000 needed to install the fence.
- An account will be set up to deposit the money already collected and will be deposited next week.
- Next step after approval is to file the necessary applications with Planning & Zoning.
- Dog park rules will be posted inside and outside the park. Eileen checked with Bethel's animal control office regarding these rules and will also send them to the town attorney, Marty Lawlor, for review. Eileen will also check with the Town's Insurance Company for their input especially regarding the rule stating that children 13 (15) must be accompanied by an adult.

FRANC PROPERTY: Beth Cavagna, of Planning and Zoning, sent the Franc property Land Use Committee report for the commission to review. The report was very informative and noted that the Franc property is one of the most accessible properties for the enjoyment of hiking and other passive recreational activities. The sign Beth had made and also sent to the meeting will be posted at the entrance of the property.

The rules are: Open sunrise to sunset.

Dogs must be on a leash and owners are responsible to clean up after their pet.

No hunting or trapping.

No bicycles or motorized vehicles.

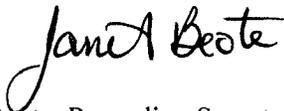
No alcohol or drugs.

Plans to develop a hiking trail system were discussed as well as mowing the hay fields and to have the soil tested next year for a community garden.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Lou Valenti made a motion which was seconded by Laura Ferguson to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next Parks and Rec. Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, **October 22, 2014** at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Beote, Recording Secretary