



Dennis G. Rozum
Director

Seymour Public Works Department
721 Derby Avenue
Seymour, Connecticut 06483
Tel. (203) 735-5838
Fax (203) 734-5713

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 8/18/10
TIME: 10:10 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

MINUTES

Board of Public Works Special Meeting
Monday, August 16, 2010 @ 6:30 PM
Public Works Garage

Members present: Chairman Sean Walsh, Vice-Chairman Wayne Finkle, Secretary Stephen Cochran, Karl Trybus, John Putorti

Others present: First Selectman Paul Roy, Robert Koskelowski, Robert Koskelowski, Jr., Bob Lang, Bill Paecht, John Poeta, Dennis Rozum, Craig Stevens

- Sean Walsh opened the meeting at 6:30 PM

ITEM #1: Salute to the flag

ITEM #2: Approve minutes of the Monday, June 14, 2010 regular meeting

→ Motion to approve minutes of the June 14, 2010 regular meeting without alteration.

Motion: Karl Trybus Second: Wayne Finkle

Vote – Yes: 5, No: 0, Abstain: 0

ITEM #3: Open discussion with Parks Board

→ Bill Paecht, Chairman of the Parks Commission, explained that the Parks budget only covers materials and all labor is provided through the Public Works department.

→ Paecht stated that he feels communication between the two departments could be improved. He would like to see a system for Public Works employees who maintain the parks to report problems such as tipped over garbage cans or damaged or broken equipment. Craig Stevens said that he will remind the department employees who maintain the parks to be alert and report any problems they see.

→ Sean Walsh asked what the current protocol for reporting problems is. Paecht said that currently the chairmen of the various sporting organizations report problems to him and he in turn reports them to Dennis who prioritizes the items and addresses the problems in order of urgency. Paecht said that he does not have a problem with this protocol, but wishes problems were more actively reported by those who see them.

→ Paecht also stated that he feels field maintenance for sporting events is lacking due to communication. Dennis Rozum said that he will put together a calendar of ongoing seasonal parks maintenance and present it at the next Parks Board meeting to be held next week. The calendar will be used as a starting point for planning, but a system for handling one-time jobs, like assembling a playscape purchased through a grant, still needs to be addressed. Members of both boards agreed that they should jointly meet at least twice annually from this point forward.

→ John Putorti asked how Rozum becomes aware of scheduled events. Paecht said that during sporting seasons the chairmen of the organizations send Dennis the schedules. Rozum said that he received the schedules for this year's high school events, but has yet to receive schedules for some organizations. Walsh suggested Rozum contact the chairmen of these organizations on a weekly basis until the information is received.

→ John Poeta, a member of the Parks Commission, said that a wear problem on the soccer field at the middle school was repaired and grass is growing, but now the area is covered with an unscreened material. Rozum and Stevens stated that screened loam was purchased and used to make the repair. Poeta also stated that the goals have to be moved back. Rozum said the goals will be moved by the end of the week.

→ Bob Lang, another member of the Parks Commission, asked that since as of August 1st Chatfield Park is only used for soccer and the Bungay School field is only used for soccer and flag football if it would be wise to drag once a week. Rozum said that it won't prevent weed growth; chemicals must be used and caution must be taken since young people still used the fields.

→ Rozum said that the bottom line is that in recent years parks usage has increased dramatically and manpower can only be divided up so much – something is always going to suffer because manpower and equipment are lacking.

→ Wayne Finkle asked if a system of rotating fields to give fields a rotating year of rest would ease maintenance and keep fields in better shape.

→ Stephen Cochran asked if an "adopt a park" program could be set up to help lessen maintenance to be done by the department. Paecht said that would involve checking with the department's union and the First Selectman.

→ Paecht also said that a fertilization schedule that was established a few years ago was not followed this year. Walsh asked if a fertilization schedule could be reestablished. Rozum said that fertilization at the middle school field along with Bungay and Chatfield fields is limited to school vacations because of laws regarding applications. Stevens said that overtime to fertilize during times when kids are not on the fields would be useful but there is not money in the budget to do so. Walsh asked if employee schedules could be adjusted to get fertilizing done without requiring overtime is possible. Stevens said that the contract would probably prohibit this option. Paecht said that he looked into getting a contractor to fertilize but the cost rule out this option.

→ Walsh also said that there is confusion about who is responsible for what at the schools. Rozum said the Board of Education is responsible for all areas other than the fields. Walsh said that this needs to be communicated to the appropriate people and any complaints received by Rozum should be forwarded to the Board of Education.

→ Walsh asked if new equipment capable of maintaining the parks faster would be more efficient. Paecht said that the town is currently preparing the capital budget to be presented in a few months. Walsh suggested starting to gather data and document the practicality of purchasing new equipment for parks maintenance.

→ Walsh also asked if seasonal help would help ease parks maintenance. Rozum said that the department did have seasonal help in the past and it worked out well, but there is no budget for this anymore. Cochran stated that when he worked for the State prisoners were used as laborers for no cost or liability. The men just need to be picked up and dropped off daily.

→ First Selectman Paul Roy stated that work on the site of the old basketball courts at French Park must be finished before the Pumpkin Festival in mid-September. Paecht said that the work must go out to bid again. Stevens said that the area may have to be hayed for the event. Finkle cautioned people smoking at the event may make haying hazardous.

Motion for the Parks Board to adjourn at 7:36 PM.

→ Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Bob Lang

Vote – Yes: 3, No: 0, Abstain: 0

→ Walsh stated that the playground at Matthies Park should either be repaired or closed to the public as he observed a thin covering of wood chips and bleachers missing wood. Stevens said that an employee will be sent to the playground tomorrow.

→ Walsh also stated that a resident made him aware of loosened bolts on the handlebars on the playscape at Gary Park.

→ Walsh advised Rozum and Stevens that Pop Warner games start August 26th and lining must be done before then.

Motion to adjourn at 8:41 PM.

→ Motion: Karl Trybus Second: Wayne Finkle

Vote – Yes: 5, No: 0, Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Knott