

East Haddam Recreation Commission

Special Meeting

August 7, 2013

Present: Brad Parker, Cindy Deming, John Gowac, Ed Smith, Margy Roberts, Kevin Conway, Michael Michalski, Tiffany Quinn, Lisa Conroy, Marty Ryczek.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Brad asked if everyone had read the May minutes, Kevin made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Cindy and passed unanimously. There was no meeting in June (lack of quorum); this meeting replaced both the regular July and August meetings.

Old Business-Sports (Basketball): The subcommittee met with Shawn Conroy several weeks ago, and met again tonight. Shawn voiced his concerns with the program as it existed last year. Brad stated that the subcommittee and Shawn are all looking for the same outcome in program improvements. Shawn is interested in coaching, but if someone better than him is available to coach, he would be agreeable with that as well. They agreed that we would follow the current procedure in seeking qualified coaches (advertising in our newsletters, the website and the Patch; interview applicants and make a final decision before tryouts). The Mashantucket League will offer home games this year (at our expense). We will also look at other leagues. We will have a final report at the September meeting. The Recreation Commission plans on interviewing interested coaches in early October, holding tryouts in late October and starting practices in early November. Tryouts will consist of the 2 coaches and 2 unaffiliated people to select the team.

The budget passed at the second referendum. Our budget remained intact, as presented with the exception of \$200,000 in field improvements in the Capitol Expense line.

Committee Reports:

Music on the River: There have been 5 concerts, with great weather and great comments including 'the best band ever"! Donations are up from last year, especially in the basket. It has been suggested that we sell t-shirts next year. We have discussed ordering some extra t-shirts to have on hand to sell at the concerts, maybe with the list of the concerts on the back, maybe a different color...maybe just a generic one so we can resell them each year if they do not sell. It was decided to table the discussion until all of the bills are paid to see what our balance is for the end of the year.

Guests and Audience:

Lisa Conroy was in attendance to listen.

Marty Ryczek was in attendance to discuss building recreation fields at the Harris property. Tiffany stated that Jim Ventres had created a map indicating available field space, the agricultural building, the fire house, etc., but that he is on vacation. Tiffany will ask him to attend the next Recreation Commission meeting to discuss the use at the Harris Property. Brad explained the history of the Harris property.

Tiffany discussed the use of organic field maintenance and the new laws that prevent the use of pesticides on fields located at K-8 schools.

Tiffany discussed budget items for next year, including the addition of a summer college student in the public works department to handle recreation department summer tasks that take away from the current public works department.

Heritage Park: Many people use the walking trail every day. There have been complaints of snakes sunning themselves on the pea stone, but they are black snakes and they are not dangerous. Brad has discussed mowing the area more often to discourage the snakes and keep the area looking nicer, which will be included in the mowing bid next year.

As discussed at several meetings, we need to adopt an email policy. The commission agreed to adopt a simple, blind copy policy, stating that all correspondence will be sent as blind copy to prevent private emails from being inadvertently shared and distributed without the owner's consent.

The East Haddam Soccer Club's Little Kicks program is being incorporated into our K/1st grade soccer program. Sarah K. will be running the program. We expect about 50 kids.

Mike made a motion to adjourn at 8:00, seconded by Cindy, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Quinn