

**East Haddam Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2017**

Attending: M. Colpoys; M. Davis; M. Francese; C. Grillo; W. Parkus; M. Roberts; T. Quinn

Absent: D. Carbo; P. Laffan

Guests: S. Anderson; E. Gubbins; T. Pisciotti; S. Wheeler

Mr. Parkus called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Guests & Audience

Ms. Anderson requested feedback on the questions she presented at the May 8th meeting. In particular, she stated, she would like to keep the fall basketball clinics for 3rd through 5th grade gender specific. Dr. Colpoys stated that she strongly endorsed co-ed basketball programs and reviewed the Recreation Commission's historical precedent for mixed teams.

Ms. Quinn stated that the Basketball Sub-Committee has not met since the Commission's May 8th meeting to consider Ms. Anderson's comments and recommendations. There was a general discussion concerning setting rules for Rec programs that apply similarly to both boys and girls.

In response to several other questions raised by Ms. Anderson, Ms. Quinn noted that it was too early to provide definitive answers.

Mr. Parkus recognized Mr. Gubbins who advised that he is a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z). He stated that P&Z will be updating the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development and that representatives are reaching out to all of the Boards and Commissions to solicit input for the updated Plan. He advised that the Plan of Conservation & Development has no funding attached to it but should represent a vision of what the Town wants to achieve over the next 10 years. The Commissioners agreed to review the sections of the Plan that apply to the Recreation Commission and provide P&Z with their input.

Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2017 Special Meeting

DR. COLPOYS MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. FRANCESE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Committee Report

- Music On The River - Ms. Quinn reported that she signed all of the contracts for the Music on the River bands. She noted that pre-concert donations have been lower this year than in past years. Ms. Roberts stated she would submit a notice about the concerts for airing on public radio stations.

There was a general discussion regarding clean-up after the concerts and Ms. Quinn stated that she had not received a written plan for the Lions' re-cycling proposal and that, consequently, she would have to deny their request. She reported that Jansky Rubbish Removal has offered to donate a trash bin for use at the concerts. The Commissioners discussed Jansky's offer and agreed it would be preferable to have them loan the Rec Commission several wheeled barrels that could be securely stored off-site on the days when there are no concerts scheduled. Ms. Quinn agreed to present their request to the Janskys.

New Business

Ms. Quinn called the Commissioners' attention to an application for membership on the Recreation Commission submitted by Tina Piscioti. Ms. Piscioti responded to questions from the Commissioners and noted that she is interested in giving back to the community and having input in its recreation programs.

MR. PARKUS MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. FRANCESE, TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT TINA PISCIOTTI BE APPOINTED FOR A THREE YEAR TERM ON THE RECREATION COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Ms. Quinn noted that Mr. Grillo's and Ms. Francese's terms on the Commission are due to expire soon and that both have expressed a desire to renew their memberships.

MOTION MADE BY MS. ROBERTS, SECONDED BY DR. COLPOYS TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT CHICK GRILLO'S AND MADELINE FRANCESE'S MEMBERSHIPS ON THE RECREATION COMMISSION BE RENEWED, EACH FOR ANOTHER THREE YEAR TERM. UNANIMOUS AYE.

- Committee Appointments – Ms. Quinn stated that committees for 2018 needed to be established and the following appointments were made:
 - **Music On The River:** Margie Roberts & Tiffany Quinn
 - **Programs:** Mary Colpoys, Mike Davis, Madeline Francese and Tina Piscioti
 - **Budget:** Dan Carbo, Chick Grillo, P. Laffan and Walt Parkus
- Summer Staff – There was no discussion regarding this agenda item.
- Summer Meeting Schedule – The Commissioners discussed the summer meeting schedule and, due to a conflict with a Music on the River concert, they agreed to cancel the August 14th meeting.

Old Business

1. Budget 2017-2018 – Ms. Quinn noted that the Town's proposed 2017/2018 budget had failed at referendum. Consequently, she expects that all of the Town's departments, Boards and Commissions will be asked to cut their budgets. She noted that, since the Rec programs are self-funded, there would be nothing to gain by cutting any of them.

Ms. Quinn reported that she had done an informal survey of communities that provide beach facilities and stated that many do so without lifeguards using a posted "Swim At Your Own Risk" policy. She noted that she discussed that option with the Town's insurance carrier who advised that they would not object to East Haddam adopting a similar policy. She advised that the Rec Commission could cut approximately \$9,000.00 from its budget by eliminating lifeguards on all

days when there is no day camp at the Town beach. There was unanimous support for Ms. Quinn's recommendation.

2. Director's Report - Ms. Quinn reviewed the Commission's past discussions regarding the fall and winter basketball programs. There was a general discussion regarding co-ed vs. gender specific teams for 3rd through 8th graders.
3. SWOT – Ms. Quinn noted that a special meeting has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on June 19th, at the Elementary School which will be devoted exclusively to working on the Recreation Commission's SWOT analysis.

Next Meeting

Ms. Quinn advised that the next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for July 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Elementary School.

DR. COLPOYS MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. DAVIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary