

East Haddam Parks and Recreation

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Chairman Brad Parker.

Chairman Parker asked that Guests be acknowledged and moved to the top of the agenda, which was approved unanimously.

Marty Ryzcek introduced himself and presented a Multi- Sports camp that the high school sports coaches would like to offer through the Recreation Department next summer during the first week of summer. It is proposed that each coach will teach a ½ day session of their sport (girls and boys), allowing youth participants to try several different sports throughout the week- long camp. The hours of the proposed camp would be 8:30-12:00 (am session) and 12:30-4 (pm session). The cost of the camp (-\$15 Park and Rec. fee will be a fund raiser for the High School sports teams). The Multi Sports camp will be open to grades 5-9. Details will be determined as the date approaches. Tiffany noted that although Paul Dominy has moved and will not be offering his soccer camp, the Recreation Department will be offering a full day soccer camp the same week for grades K-8. Typically the younger grades participate in the soccer camp. The Recreation Commission approved the addition of this camp for the summer of 2014.

Jim Ventres brought plans for the Agricultural Center at the Harris Property and answered questions from the audience about the Recreational space available. The audience was concerned that the original purchase of the property, including the support of the Commission, was contingent on the use of the property being mainly recreational. Mr. Ventres told the audience that several meetings had occurred and a grant had been obtained for the use and development of the Harris Property as an agricultural center.

Treasurers Report: A motion was made to dispense with the report until next month, passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Music on the River- It was reported that the summer concert series was wildly successful. All concerts were held outside and very well attended. The committee will begin to meet in January to plan the 2014 summer series.

Sports- We have gathered input from parents and coaches for changes to the travel and recreational basketball leagues. They include:

Travel- more home games, even if this increases the cost to the parents; Travel tryouts that include Rec. Commission members; PPC suggestions for changes to the league (forwarded to the league).

Recreation- Kindergarten/First Grade combined after school; second grade after school; Grades 3-8 one practice per night and one game per weekend as in the past; Remove the "no score" rule for grade 3/4.

All changes were accepted by the Commission unanimously.

Directors Report-

Tiffany provided a copy of the Annual Town report that was submitted.

Old Business-

Basketball and Harris Property (please see earlier notes in minutes)

Old Middle School Fields- we will be holding several meetings that will include all youth sports leagues, Craig Mansfield and Jim Ventres to determine the best use for this field. It is the Recreation Commissions opinion that a "green space" that can be used by any group, sport or organization without any barrier, fence or marker is the best long term use of this space.

New Business-

Several members are due to be reappointed to the Recreation Commission. A letter will be sent to the Selectmen, stating that it is the recommendation of the Recreation Commission that John Gowac, Ed Smith, Jr., and Cynthia Deming be appointed for the 2013-2016 term.

Tiffany has met with our Insurance representatives at CIRMA to review the wording in our park signs, including the Dog Park and the Skate Park. Both signs meet all of the current requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2013.