

**Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2013**

Attending: C. Deming; C. Grillo; M. Michalski; B. Parker; V. Parkus; M. Roberts; T. Quinn  
Guests: J. Crovo; K. Velikaney; J. Ventres; S. Wheeler

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m

MS. DEMING MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. GRILLO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

There was no Treasurer's report given at the meeting.

**GUESTS & AUDIENCE**

Mr. Crovo introduced himself and stated that he was a member of the Elementary School Building Committee. He distributed a handout regarding the committee's findings. He advised that the committee considered three options: (1) make the necessary repairs to bring the school into code compliance (\$12.2M), (2) renovate as new (\$15M), and (3) demo the school and rebuild (\$15M). He noted that if the school was demolished and rebuild, the State would only reimburse the Town for significantly smaller facility. He stated the current school is 76,000 sq. ft. and a new facility would be approximately 33,000 sq. ft. with a smaller capacity gym.

Mr. Crovo stated that it is the committee's recommendation to renovate as new and responded to several questions from the Commissioners. He stated that the renovations would take place in stages so that classes are not disrupted. There was a general discussion about how the school fell into disrepair and Mr. Crovo advised that the committee will also recommend that an on-going maintenance plan be put into place for the renovated facility.

Mr. Ventres stated that he represented the Municipal Facilities Committee and distributed a handout with the committee's findings. He provided a history of the project and noted that the committee's proposal includes all of the Town's offices, with the exception of the Public Works Department, and an addition to house Fire Company 2. He noted that the floorplan in the handout is conceptual and may change if the project goes forward.

Mr. Ventres provided information on several potential grants available for the project, the most significant one from the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program which could provide funding for up to 30% of the project. In response to a question raised by (marge), Mr. Ventres stated that he felt that 80% of the surveys that were handed back after the public hearing on the project were not negative.

Mr. Ventres also provided a drawing of plans for the playing fields behind the facility and stated the projected cost to improve the fields was \$1.34M. He recommended that the Recreation Commission request funding in the upcoming budget process to develop bid-ready plans for the project so it could be presented to the Board of Finance. It was noted that the drawings call for fencing and Ms. Quinn stated that it was her understanding that the area was to be developed as an open green space with the flexibility to accommodate soccer and other sports besides baseball. In response to a question from (cindi), Mr. Ventres advised that there are approximately 5 acres available for playing fields behind the old Middle School.

There was a general discussion about the number of baseball fields in Town and Ms. Quinn emphasized the need for more soccer fields.

Ms. Quinn introduced Mrs. Velikaney stated she has two sons on the travel basketball team and informed the Commissioners that her husband was a coach last year. She asked about the process for selecting this year's coaches and Mr. Michalski and Ms. Quinn provided her with an overview of the selection process. Mr. Michalski stated that they had not asked Mr. Velikaney to run a try-out because the committee was already familiar with him. Mr. Parker also informed Ms. Velikaney that the coaches are selected for a one-year term and have to reapply each year.

Mr. Velikaney expressed her concern about some of the committee's selection for this year's coaches and stated she did not feel the best decisions were made for the program as a whole. She also mentioned concerns with the security of the Recreation Commission's email and Ms. Quinn assured her that the Commission has adopted a new email policy that will address the previous problems it experienced.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Mail – Ms. Quinn advised that no mail had been received.
2. 2014 Meeting Schedule and Officers - The Commissioners discussed the meeting schedule for next year and agree to continue to hold the meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Ms. Quinn noted that it had been difficult to achieve a quorum when the meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. and recommended changing the meeting time back to 7:00 p.m. There was a general discussion about the meeting time and the Commissioners agreed to schedule the 2014 meetings at 7:00 p.m.

MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. MICHALSKI, TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING RECREATION COMMISSION OFFICERS: CHAIRMAN – BRAD PARKER; VICE-CHAIRMAN – VAJ PARKUS; TREASURER – JOHN GOWAC. UNANIMOUS AYE.

3. Director's Report – Ms. Quinn reported on the following:
  - She is unable to continue to dedicate the amount of time she previously did to the Local Prevention Council and asked the Commissioners if anyone else can act as a liaison. Since the meetings are held during the day, none of the Commissioners was available to attend them.
  - She will be participating on the Chatham Health District's Safe Kids Coalition.
  - She received a request to establish a massage therapy class and plans to get back to the individual who would like to set it up.
  - She is drafting a list of Rec Commission tasks for the Public Works director to assist with her request to add an individual to the Public Works staff for the 2014 budget.
  - She circulated a list of the travel basketball schedule.
4. Other – Mr. Parker stated that he had spoken with Mr. Walter and the Finance Director to try to get 10 hours of secretarial support for Ms. Quinn. He advised that they are negotiating with the secretarial union and he will report the results of that negotiation at the next meeting.

There was a general discussion about whether or not Ms. Quinn or one of the Commissioners should pursue acquiring a coach's certificate. No decision was made at the meeting.

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. DEMING, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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