

RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

April 15, 2010

Attending: K. Conway; C. Deming; J. Gowac; C. Grillo (arrived 7:20 p.m.); M. Michalski; B. Parker; E. Smith; T. Quinn

Brad Parker called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the Special Meeting of March 25, 2010. MR. MICHALSKI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2010 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. SMITH AND WAS PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF AYES. MR. GOWAC DID NOT ATTEND THE MARCH 25TH MEETING AND ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Quinn reported that the Commission's Capital Improvement 2009-2010 budget had been reduced by \$3900.00, which was the prior year's encumbrance amount, leaving a balance of \$10,000.00.

Guest and Audience

There were no guests or audience in attendance at the meeting.

Correspondence

Ms. Quinn reported that there was no correspondence to discuss.

Committee Reports

A. Music on the River

Ms. Deming reported that six bands had been selected, the brochures are being worked on, and a Music on the River Facebook page had been created. Ms. Quinn reported that a \$1000.00 donation had been sent in and that she is working with Mr. Dedusaj on the Family Day plans. She also noted that she had received a permit from the State for parking across the river at Eagle Landing on the nights of the concerts.

Director's Report

Ms. Quinn advised that all of the items on her report would be covered under Old Business.

Old Business

A. Nicols Field Playground

Ms. Quinn reported that Consumer's Union had pledged a \$20,000.00 donation for this project and that there is \$10,000.00 in the budget to cover the balance of the expenses. She stated that, due to insurance concerns, she has decided to hire a licensed playground installer to install the playground and noted that it will be ADA compliant. She advised that she has also included two picnic tables and a Notice board in the plans.

Ms. Quinn stated that she would like to bring the project up for a vote at Town Meeting in May and begin work in June.

B. Survey Monkey – Needs Assessment

Ms. Quinn reported that she received 37 responses to her recent survey on the basketball program. She stated that responses were generally positive and indicated that the players would like to continue the inter-town program next season. She provided the results of the survey to the Commissioners on the Basketball Sub-Committee.

C. Programming Changes – Soccer/Basketball

Mr. Michalski reported that he had spoken with the president of the Soccer Club who indicated that the Club is very interested in running the Recreation Commission's soccer program. He stated that previous discussions were not followed-up on because of staffing issues but that the Soccer Club president now feels they have sufficient staff to manage the program. Mr. Parker requested Mr. Michalski ask the Soccer Club president to attend the Recreation Commission's May meeting.

New Business

A. Open Space Grant

Mr. Parker advised that the Open Space Commissioners would like to apply for an Open Space Grant from the State of CT for two parcels of land. He stated that the first parcel, the Harris Property on Mt. Parnassus Road, encompasses 135 acres and the cost to purchase the land would be \$550,000. He stated that the second parcel, the Dean Property on Parker Road, encompasses 280 acres and that the proposal is for the Town to purchase a conservation easement on property. He stated that the cost of the easement has not yet been determined. Mr. Parker displayed several topographical maps and enlarged photos of the properties and noted that 18 acres of the Harris property would be set-aside for a fire station and recreational fields.

There was a general discussion about whether or not the Town should expend the funds to purchase open space during the current economic climate; however, the Commissioners felt there was no downside to the proposal from the perspective of the Recreation Commission.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. GOWAC THAT THE RECREATION COMMISSION SEND A LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMENT SUPPORTING THE OPEN SPACE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE THE DEAN PROPERTY AND TO PURCHASE A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE HARRIS PROPERTY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. DEMING AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment

There being no additional business to discuss, MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. GOWAC AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary