



Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes April 14, 2021

The Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission met via Zoom on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Treasurer Miriam Morrissey, acting as Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

Members present were: Dave Berardis, Jan Edgerton and Chris Marra. Director Carol Jones was also present. Members absent were: Sarah Kateley, Sarah Ficca, Leslie Sheehan, Brandon Woodcock, Kevin Crosby, Grace Petroka and Elizabeth Taran.

Audience of Citizens: None

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Marra to accept the secretary report, 2nd by Berardis. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: No report was presented.

Committee Reports:

- Spring Egg Hunt- The drive through event "egg-travaganza" went very well. Gave out about 75 buckets of candy and goodies. New bunny costume P & R paid to have made, worked out well. Participants in the egg hunt- where large cardboard eggs were placed around town- received their prizes during this event.
- Theater Program- Morrissey reported that the spring theater program will not happen due to weather concerns with no indoor space available due to Covid.
- Fishing Derby- Derby will be run similar to the 2020 derby. Jones ordered the fish from Beaverkill Fish hatchery in NY state. Jones filed the permit required from CT DEEP to transport 'live fish' from out of state to CT waters.
- Bus Trips- Only trip still planned for 2021 at this time is a Red Sox/Yankee baseball game. P & R would sell tickets only. No bus will be hired. Game is Friday, June 4, 2021 in NY.
- Summer Basketball- Jones reached out to a local past player for assistance and feedback about running a 2021 summer league.
- Summer Program- registration open; slow response.
- Summer Concerts – All booked. Committee looking at food options. Concerts will be at Plattwood Park or Devitt Field only.
- Family Day/5K- P & R will offer the 5K. Fireworks are now scheduled for Saturday, October 30th with the 31st as a rain date. Commission will consider another event for the evening.
- Parks:
 - Devitt- DRCLL has started practice. Opening day, April 24th. Water will be turned on in time for opening day.
 - Town Landing – Interest in the memorial bench program for a group that would like to put a nameplate on a bench. Docks will be installed in early May. One pier has to be replaced prior to this. The Secore Diving group will be at the landing on April 24th in honor of Earth Day; they do an annual clean-up of trash in the river.
 - Plattwood- One application for park use was discussed:
 - The Valley Volleyball Booster club submitted an application for park use for the end of season gathering of the girls' volleyball team and their

families. The application is for Sunday, May 16th. After commission discussion it was decided: the team is required to submit their Covid safety plan, a security deposit and an insurance liability certificate as stated in the park use application. These requirements were not waived. Jones signed a contract with the company "Pond and Lake Connection" to perform maintenance at the two ponds. The company will obtain all necessary permits from the CT DEEP and will begin treatments now. They will continue work into the fall if needed under a new contract, not yet signed.

- Jones spoke to the First Selectman about the repair and re-install of the fountain.
- The Little League field at Plattwood needs a load of clay to spruce up the field. Jones will be ordering this soon.
- Jones will be ordering 3 or 4 new grills for the park and will be looking into the cost to renovate the volleyball courts.
- Water will be turned on shortly.

Marra made a motion to allow the VRHS volleyball team to utilize the field with all stipulations mentioned above not to exceed 60 people at this time. Morrissey seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- Brockway Ferry –No report

Old Business/New Business:

- Jones reported that the "Mystery Spot Mondays" contest, where folks are asked to guess the location of the small elephant statue "Queenie", is going well. Winners are chosen every two weeks and receive a gift certificate to a local business.
- Jones is looking into starting a new program, 'Esports', and will report on that at the next meeting.
- Walking program not up and running yet.
- Light Parade date set for December 4th
- Women's hiking club has started. There are currently 9 people signed up.

Motion made by Morrissey to adjourn; seconded by Berardis. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Next meeting of the Commission scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2021 via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Jones, Director
Acting Secretary