



The Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes August 12, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held at the pavilion at Plattwood Park so that all in attendance could socially distance due to the Corona Virus. The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by Chairperson Betsy Scholfield. Members present were Dave Berardis, Sarah Ficca, Sarah Kateley and Miriam Morrissey. P & R Director Carol Jones was also in attendance. Members not present were: Chris Marra, Brandon Woodcock, Kevin Crosby, Leslie Sheehan, Grace Petroka, Don Sampson and Elizabeth Taran

Audience of Citizen's- None

Secretary's report: Last meeting was June. Morrissey made a motion to accept the minutes. Berardis seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: No Report

Committee Reports:

- Carnival: Canceled for 2020
- Summer camp: Low enrollment but all in attendance enjoyed themselves. All followed the new safety protocols and were pleased that camp was run so safely. No cases of Covid were reported. Jones reported that the two new directors did an outstanding job under such trying conditions.
- Summer Concerts: Concerts are going well. Very well attended and folks are socially distancing and wearing masks. Had one rain out so far. Rescheduled it for a Sunday evening and the feedback for that move was positive. Folks like having concerts at Devitt.
- Fishing Derby: No Report
- Family Day/5K- Family day has been canceled and fireworks have been canceled. However, P & R was looking to still offer the 5K but have runners/walkers do it on their own. Feedback from local runners was that it is better to cancel. So committee decided to cancel for 2020.
- Halloween: Looking to hold the trunk or treat event if we can space out the trunks, and keep costumed participants socially distanced, wearing masks, etc. Would have the DJ back and hold it back at Devitt Field utilizing both the "A" and "B" fields. However, BOS and health department will be consulted. Anticipate not being able to hold this event this year but committee is hopeful.
- Holiday Stroll: No Report
- Basketball: Hopeful for a season but it depends if we are allowed to utilize the schools. Have to wait and see.
- Bus Trips: All major league baseball games have been canceled so bus trip to Boston was canceled.

Other Programs: Jones looking to run on line options for programs or maybe outdoor things. Searching for ideas and talking to other towns.

Parks:

Devitt Field: Park use applications before the Commission include:

- DR Rotary Club would like to have a fundraising event at the field on October 10th. It would be a corn hole tournament. They would like to allow alcohol. Jones stated that the applicant was told that Rotary would be responsible for enforcing social distancing and mask protocols. Group size had to be limited and the schedule of events had to take into consideration, crowd size. They agreed to stagger teams so that there was plenty of room for participants to spread out. They will not sell concessions. This is a one day event. Rotary would like the use fee waived.
- G's Treasures filed an application to hold an outdoor auction of collectibles and antiques. People would bring their own chairs and would be required to wear masks and maintain social distance. This is a one day event. Jones stated that they were told that no driving on the field would be allowed. Would like use fee waived and if approved, they will donate 50% of profits to be split with half going to 'The Nest' and the other half to the 'Deep River Food Pantry'.

Berardis made a motion to allow both events with the following stipulations:

Rotary-no alcohol is allowed for the safety of all in attendance and to help stop the spread of Covid. Fee will be waived but liability insurance will not.

For G's treasures- make sure no vehicles cause damage to the field. And if fee waived, then P & R needs to confirm that the donation is made to the local organizations as promised. Liability insurance requirement not waived.

Kateley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Plattwood: Many signs have been put up at the park regarding Covid safety protocols (social distancing, masks) . Issues have occurred with park use as many area youth have been skateboarding and playing basketball seeming to ignore the safety measures. BOS has been made aware.

Due to the pandemic, DRCLL has put off buying the shed this year.

Town Landing: Increased use this year. Gate guards are doing a good job. P & R was requested by the First Selectman to have guards scheduled every day and to extend the hours of coverage.

Brockway Ferry – No report

Motion made by Ficca to adjourn; seconded by Kateley. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Jones, Director

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