



Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting- March 15, 2023

The Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on 3/15/23.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairperson Dave Berardis at 7:15 pm. Members present were: treasurer Miriam Morrissey, Nicole Desrosiers, Kayla Howard, Sarah Kateley, Suzanne Sutch, Kristen Brennan, and later Chair Chris Marra. Members absent were Jan Edgerton, Siobhan Stack, Leslie Sheehan, Dave Richards, Kristen Chasse, Brandon Woodcock and Kevin Crosby. P & R Director, Carol Jones, was also in attendance.

Audience of Citizens: Jeni Able attended the meeting to speak to the group about girls 7-8th grade basketball and to decide if she wanted to become a member of the Commission.

Secretary's Report: No report

Treasurer's Report: Morrissey presented the report and a motion made by S.Kateley to accept; second by D.Berardis. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Easter Egg Hunt- The hunt will be on Saturday, 4/8 with a rain date of Sunday, 4/9. Egg stuffing will be held at S. Kateley's house on Wednesday, 3/29 @ 6:30 pm. Committee members will add fun spring themed activities to follow the hunt, like chalk drawing, bean bag toss, etc. Jones will update the flyer to announce these additional activities. Volunteers needed for the day of event. Easter bunny will be delivered to the field by the DRFD. Jones to confirm. The hunt will begin at 11:00 sharp. The event is open to all area youth grades PreK-through grade 6.
- Fishing Derby- Fish have been ordered. The derby will celebrate its 40th year this year. It will take place on Saturday, May 13th, rain or shine at Plattwood Park. Jones will check with J. Olsen, neighbor, about hanging the net under their covered bridge at the east end of the pond. Jones to post on FB and make posters. Help needed for day of event and on day when fish are delivered.
- Music Festival- was canceled for 2023 as the committee felt that they don't have enough time to plan it since the BOS hasn't appropriated money yet for a 2023 June event. Perhaps something will happen later in the year.
- Summer Concerts- Sounds of Summer, concert series is all planned. The committee will look into lining up food vendors for the concerts as well. First concert will be held on July 6th. Two make up dates, 8/17, and 8/24 are reserved.
- Summer Camp-Currently registration is ongoing; numbers are low at this point. Camp Director position has been filled. Hiring for the Assistant Director position. Many counselors are returning.
- Deep River Day/5K/Pet Parade/Fireworks- No report. Date will be 9/16 if planned.
- Other Programs:

Women's Hiking Club-will begin in late April. Ann Courcy will again be the instructor/lead. Registration is \$45.00 per person.

Tai Chi- will be offered free to the public on Thursday mornings, 7-8 am, at the town landing beginning in early May.

- Other Programs Cont.:

Bus Trips-The Broadway trip took place on Wednesday, March 8th. The bus was only 1/3 full. Question the group will ponder, "do we continue to offer these trips?"

Warrior in the Community Day – Friday, May 19th with a rain date of Monday, May 22nd. Groups of Valley students will be at several locations throughout town performing cleanup and other activities as part of the community service day. Volunteers needed to be at the parks and locations when the students are on site.

Earth Day- Saturday, 4/22. DR Sustainability committee will be at the landing to help with a river front cleanup. The SECONN divers will return to the landing to dive and haul out debris and garbage from the boat launch area. Volunteers welcome to help out. This is also opening day for DRCLL.

Parks:

- Devitt- cleanup will be underway shortly for preparations for DRLL opening day. Water will be turned on prior to the Easter Egg hunt.
- Town Landing-Earth day cleanup of the waters around the boat launch will take place on Saturday, 4/22. The docks are not yet in. The fundraiser, Race the Train, will take place on March 25th. This race is a fundraiser for Community Health Resources. The racers will leave the Essex Steam train station and proceed to the DR town landing via Main Street in Essex, to Book Hill Road, to High Street to River Street. The town landing is the half way point for the race. The train will stop at the landing between 9:30-10:00 am.
- Plattwood Park- renovation work to the baseball field has been completed. DRCLL has been told that they can use the field this season. Two additional cameras are being installed. A playground grant was received, so plans are underway for new equipment, playground upgrades, and some work to be done on the fitness trail. Grant money will also be used to upgrade new playground pieces at Devitt. We also received a grant to replace the pavilion at the park. If monies are available, the Devitt pavilion might also get an upgrade. The Nest will hold a fundraiser on May 20th; the application and flyer were discussed and approved. The Dry Pants model Yacht Club will hold a regatta on May 6-7th.
- Brockway Ferry-no report

Old Business:

Buddy Track is back and will take place on three consecutive Wednesdays, beginning on April 27th. This event is in its 10th year. The program offers track and field events to unique learners and pairs them with a volunteer 'buddy'. Buddies are students in grade 8 or above or adults. It is a free program, run by Valley students and staff and co-sponsored by DR P & R. Commission members are encouraged to volunteer. Wednesday, from 5:00-6:60 pm @ Valley Regional tack.

Adjournment: M. Morrissey made a motion to adjourn; second by N. Desrosiers. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Jones, Director
Acting Secretary