



## Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes Monthly Meeting- May 10, 2023

The Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on 5/10/2023. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dave Berardis at 7:00 pm.

Members present were: Nicole Desrosiers, Secretary Kristen Olson, Kayla Howard, Suzanne Sutch, Kristen Brennan and David Richards. Members absent were: Chairperson Chris Marra, Leslie Sheehan, Siobhan Stack, Brandon Woodcock, Kevin Crosby, Treasurer Miriam Morrissey, Sandra Stroeter, Jan Edgerton and Sarah Kateley. P&R Director Carol Jones was also in attendance.

Audience of Citizens: Jane Moen attended the meeting to discuss the Nest Coffee House's Water Lantern Community event to be held at Plattwood park on 5/20. She requested an exception to the park rule of 'no ground fires' so that they could add a small beach bonfire to their event.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Dave Berardis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brennan; to accept the secretary report with corrections detailed below. Motion passed.

Correction(s): Listed as 'absent members', Grace Petroka and Elizabeth Taran who are no longer commission members.

Director Carol Jones also in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: No report was presented.

### Committee Reports:

- Fishing Derby – Jones to add “No Fishing” signs after fish are delivered 05/11/2023. To celebrate the derby's 40th year, a large, tagged rainbow trout (23") was purchased. If caught, a special grand prize donated by Ted's Bait & Tackle will be awarded. The Commission received confirmation that Jim Olson (private residence, neighbor) is hanging a net below the covered bridge to block the stocked fishing pond for the derby; net will be hung morning of 5/11/2023. Event date is Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 rain or shine at Plattwood Park. Start time 7:30am, finish at 9:30 am. Registration online on the Park & Rec town website or on site morning of event starting at 7:00 am. Park & Rec will sell coffee, juice, water, donuts and bagels. No fishing is allowed from the beach.
- Music Festival – Will happen in June 2024; voted 'yes' at town meeting. Looking to establish a subcommittee. Reach out to Deep River Merchants to gain their support.
- Summer Concerts - Desrosiers and Howard to design poster, Jones to provide QR code. Post information and poster in the Deep River News Shoreline Book and Valley Courier. Poster target completion date: 05/20/2023. Setting up vendors has begun; Chris' Dog House has been confirmed to be available and the commission will be asking others (such as Deep River Ice).
- Summer Camp – Staff is hired, training ongoing. Staff includes 6 high school counselors. Week 3 is full with 30 kids at this time.
- Deep River Day – What the day would look like in 2023 was discussed. Last year, P & R played a major part in helping organize the day; but for a successful day, all parties need to be active (town entities as well as merchants). Some ideas included maybe a Block Party on

Main Street and possibly P & R holding another drive-in movie at Devitt. The price of fireworks has increased 36% and the launch site @ Haynes may not be available. There is no contract in place at this time for the fireworks. Exploring ideas, such as can the fireworks be launched on school grounds? Town Fire Marshall is reaching out to Region 4 to pose that question. This is a 30 year on-going event that we want to keep going. There is no money in the current budget for the fireworks as they have always been donated in the past.

- Other Programs-

- Women's hiking club – 12 people at first session, going well.
- Tai Chi – 10 people at first session, going well, instructor funds will come from new program budget line.
- Bus Trips – Attendance has decreased so no new trips are planned at this time; looking to a fall football trip; NY Jets reached out offering group rates. Need ideas – Jones to reach out to other P & R's to see if there is interest to share the burden of cost and for better attendance. Past trips have included the Bronx Zoo trip on day off of school.
- Warrior in the Community Day – Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Groups of Valley students will be at several locations throughout town performing cleanup and other activities as part of the community service day. Buses drop off at 8:30-8:45am. Volunteers will be on site with the students when they are there and bringing some tools. Town crew will drop off mulch and will clean up the brush piles and trash bags after the students depart locations.
- Earth Day – was Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Clean up went very well.
- Buddy Track – Started on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Will run for three consecutive Wednesdays. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year for this event. Very well received. Deep River P&R is a co-sponsor of the event.

#### Parks report:

Devitt: Closet is being cleaned out by guard shack employee. Playground equipment order for the Deep River Elementary School will be reviewed to make sure we don't duplicate pieces at Devitt's that we will have at the Elementary school already. Member idea: paint hop-scotch and 4 square lines on the sidewalk.

Town Landing: Docks in 05/10/2023.

Plattwood: Desrosiers is helping with topographical maps for playground and pavilion plans. We have 4 years to spend the grant money. The pavilion is intended to be about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the size of the one that Camp Hazen recently put up (24' x 48'). There are no plans to increase the numbers of toilets, the new bathroom units will be unisex per the federal grant they need to be gender neutral. Question posed by member Olson: Will some of the work be put out to bid for the pavilion, ie: the concrete pad. Idea proposed by member Desrosiers: paint games on old pavilion concrete slab to re-purpose it.

It was noted that there is a light out on the basketball court, town is having Top Notch replace the lights with LEDs.

Brockway Ferry: no report; passive use

#### New Business:

- Jane Moen attended the meeting to discuss Water Lantern Community event for an

- exception for an open burn on Plattwood Park beach. Exception was made as a 'trial' case for the 2019 event. Seeking an exception to the 'No Burn' policy again this year. There were concerns after the 2019 event about the clean up efforts of the open burn area on the beach at Plattwood. Moen believed that there were just miscommunications and misunderstanding of responsibility and expectations. Commission is concerned about precedence that it sets for spectators and people driving by; Park & Rec's current policy clearly states no open burns at the park. There are no hazard plans, clean-up plans or insurance plans with coverage amounts currently put together by Park & Rec to allow for this activity. The Commission discussed and put the exception to vote. After much discussion, a motion was made by David Richards to vote on the ground fire exemption, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Berardis. Commission voted to NOT allow ground fire exception at Plattwood Park.
- Park Use form submitted for Angel Ride for 6/3/2023 for Plattwood Park. Will be used as a rest stop from 10:30am – 1:30pm
- Park Use Form – general discussion – Forms have not been reviewed/revised in a while. Table for next meeting; Commission to review standards for the form, ie: lifeguards 1 per 25ppl. Discussion around event coordinators being the focal POC to fill out Park Use form (weddings – should Park & Rec be dealing with the bride and groom or the event coordinator)

Adjournment:

Kristen Brennan made a motion to adjourn. Second by N. Desrosiers. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Olson  
Acting Secretary