



Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023

P & R meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by chair Chris Marra. Members present were: Miriam Morrissey, Nicole Desrosiers, Suzanne Sutch and Kayla Howard. Members absence were: Jan Edgerton, Sandy Stroeter, Kristen Brennan, Leslie Sheehan, Kristen Chasse, Sarah Kateley, Dave Berardis, Brandon Woodcock, Dave Richard, Kevin Crosby and Elizabeth Taran. Director Carol Jones was also present.

Audience of Citizens: none

Secretary's Report: Howard made a motion, second by to accept minutes from 9/13/23. Second by Howard. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report: Morrissey presented report. Richard made motion to accept report. Howard second. Motion passed.

Audience of Citizens: None

Committee Reports:

- a. Deep River Day/5K/Pet Parade/Fireworks Recap-
Deep River received great feedback from many of the attendees. The Farmer's market saw a big increase in the foot traffic as did the artisan market that was also held at the green. However, many merchants did not feel that they had a boost from the folks visiting town for Deep River Day as many were down the street enjoying the activities at the green. The book sale at the library did well. Feedback from families, stated that they loved that the entire field was available and church street shut down as their children could play games and they had less of a worry with traffic, and all events were in one place, etc. Next year, will consider expanding events. Food trucks, music, dunk tank, face painting and other kid activities were popular.
- b. Music Festival- sub-committee has met and have come up with tasks and assignments for each member. All P&R members are asked to brain storm for a festival name and also talk it up.
- c. Halloween Event-10/28/2023
 - Night at the Town Hall & Scarecrow Contest:
"The Night at the Town Hall"- Committee has been decorating the town hall grounds with a new element added each week. The feedback has been great. Definitely getting people excited for the event. Night at the Town Hall will feature small areas, decorated by different groups or individuals, some with live actors, that the visitors will walk through. There will be guides-trying to get Valley Regional students, who will be in costume and will lead the visitors through in small groups so that any actors can get set up for each group. Will lead through town hall entering at auditorium ramp entrance on Elm Street, and proceeding right through main conference room, up the stairs through auditorium and exiting out utilizing main staircase of auditorium to Elm Street steps. First Student might donate a bus to be parked near bottom of ramp and decorated by DRES PTO. Other groups will be asked to participate, such as face painting, DRHS, and youth groups. Food truck will also be on site. There will be games and also a pumpkin carving contest.
 - Scarecrow contest – The scarecrows will be set up shortly. Howard is spearheading this event. This year, the scarecrows will be installed around the fountain on the town hall grounds. Howard will number each site and instruct the participants to erect their scarecrow at that spot. Voting to be done on line.
- d. Holiday Stroll- 12/2/23. Jones has confirmed fire performers, Carolers, a Santa and Mrs. Claus, and arranged fire truck to transport Santa. Vehicle light parade registration is open and an email inviting all past participants to enter was sent out. Jones spoke to First Selectman and DR Police and Fire Departments to establish route of parade. Desrosiers, Sutch and Howard along with Stroeter will work with DRES PTO to invite them to participate. A sub-committee meeting will be held shortly to iron out details.

e. Other Programs

Bus Trips-Jones looking into a Broadway trip for March 2024

f. Parks: No report.

6. Old Business/New Business-

- Vote – Sutch made a motion, second by Desrosiers to split proceeds from dunk tank between DRFD and DRES PTO as they helped out with that event on Deep River Day by set up, filling and of course having personnel to dunk. Also, motion included to let DR Historical Society keep any proceeds from the selling of pizza during the Halloween event after paying for the pizzas purchased from DaVincis. Motion passed.
- Park use form and fees-general discussion; Jones will raise fees for 2024-2025 as fees for police are increasing and park use fees should also see a nominal increase.
- Basketball- Berardis sent in report; due to low enrollment at schools, sub-committee will consider offering the rec program to all students even if they play travel basketball; typically, they have not been allowed to do both. Also, looking for a place to play as JW gym is closed and school teams are searching for gym space as well.

Adjournment- Morrissey made a motion to adjourn; second by Sutch. Meeting adjourned @8:23 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Carol Jones, Director

Acting Secretary