



The Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes for Special meeting June 2, 2020

The special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:41 pm via zoom by Director Carol Jones. Members present were: Betsy Scholfield, Sarah Kateley, Miriam Morrissey and Sarah Ficca. Members absent were: Chris Marra, Brandon Woodcock, Dave Berardis, Kevin Crosby, Leslie Sheehan, Grace Petroka, Don Sampson and Elizabeth Taran

Audience of Citizen's- None

Secretary's report: No Report

Treasurer's report: No Report

Committee Reports:

- Carnival: Canceled for 2020
- Summer camp: P & R is planning to move forward with holding the summer youth camp. The two director positions were filled- new hire Jared Hickey will serve as the camp director and returning staffer, Jonathan Lacoske, has been hired as the assistant director. Jones is working closely with the BOS and CRAHD as well as the CT Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) to implement all the required safety protocols put in place by the Governor of CT's Executive Order as well as local health department guidelines, recommendations and requirements in order to keep campers and staff safe and help prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The camp will be held outside at two parks- Devitt Field and Plattwood and will not be held at DRES. Camp will be held rain or shine. New restrictions put a limit to the number of campers in each group, and the number of campers and staff per site. Anticipate lower enrollment/revenue and more costs incurred. No off site field trips requiring bus transportation are allowed. Camp will begin June 29th. Masks are required for those 8 years old and older.
- Summer Concerts: Concerts will be held beginning in July and will be staged at either Devitt Field or Plattwood so that crowds can spread out to maintain social distancing requirements. No food will be served. Concerts will go into early September.
- Fishing Derby: Held this event with a new twist-offered over a week for anglers to fish. This way, there were no crowds. P & R set up a measuring station, painted lines on the grass around the pond to designate 'safe' zones and also required all participants to pre-register. Those who caught a trout, were instructed to send a photo of the angler holding the fish as well as a photo of the fish lying against the yard stick at the measuring station. It was on the honor system but the feed back was great. People were happy to have an outdoor activity during the pandemic. Prizes were awarded in three categories and biggest catch overall as in years past.

- Easter Egg Hunt- canceled. Instead, we offered a coloring page contest and awarded bags of 12 candy stuffed eggs.
- Theater Program: Production went well. Wrap up meeting took place and suggestions were made for next year's production. P & R hired Valley TV (VRHS students) to film the performances to make CD's for all of the participants.
- Bus Trips: Due to the pandemic, the March trip to NYC was canceled. Jones working on refund/re-ticketing options. Baseball trip in May was canceled and the August bus trip to Boston is unlikely but not yet canceled.
- Basketball- season ended with Valley Cup tournament in early March.
- Family Day/5K- Family Day has been canceled. No fireworks. Committee to decide if P & R will hold the 5K virtually.
- Halloween: No Report

Other Programs: Pickleball was ended early as afterschool programs were canceled. It ended at the beginning of March

Parks:

Devitt Field: DRCLL and men's softball were asked by P & R to submit in writing their Covid safety protocols prior to being allowed field/park access. Jones forwarded these to CRAHD (local health dept.) as well as the BOS for approval.

Plattwood: Additional camera has been installed.

P & R and BOS approved location of DRCLL shed. It will be placed on the south west corner of the baseball diamond outside the fence. The location is on the far right of the upper parking lot at the corner of the outfield fence. The town crew will install the gravel pad and will coordinate with DRCLL. DRCLL will purchase the shed.

Town Landing: No report.

Brockway Ferry – No report

Old Business: The idea of a gate to be installed at the entrance to Plattwood was put on hold.

New Business: Jones ran two spring programs. One was a town wide chalk contest. Another was a Star Wars celebration on May 4th – "May the 4th be with You". Entrants had to make a creation out of Legos or utilizing another medium. All entries for both contests were put on line and sent in to the local newspaper.

P & R also purchased signs with positive messages and affirmations, and Jones installed them around town at various locations. The community seemed to love them with many sending appreciative comments back to P & R.

Motion made by Kateley to adjourn; seconded by Morrissey. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Jones, Director

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