



## Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes Special meeting- March 10, 2021

The Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission met via Zoom on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. Treasurer Miriam Morrissey, acting as Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. Members present were: Dave Berardis, Jan Edgerton and Sarah Kateley. Director C. Jones was also present. Members absent were: Chris Marra, Sarah Ficca, Leslie Sheehan, Brandon Woodcock, Kevin Crosby, Grace Petroka and Elizabeth Taran. Karrena Garrity, a writer from the Patch, an on-line new source was also present.

Audience of Citizens: None

Secretary's Report: Motion made by S. Kateley to accept the secretary report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Berardis. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: No formal report was presented.

### Committee Reports:

- Spring Egg Hunt- There will be a drive through egg giveaway called an "egg-travaganza" on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. It will run from 11:00-1:00 pm and will utilize the River Street driveway of DRES. Open to Pre-K-through grade 6 DR youth. There will be a photo opportunity through the vehicle windows for anyone interested in a picture with the 'Easter Bunny'. Also a virtual egg hunt will take place; 15 colorful cardboard eggs with a springtime word written across them, will be posted around town. Participants have to find the eggs and write the word from each on their game boards. Participants will have a chance to win a stuffed basket of goodies. Each event is free.
- Theater Program- Morrissey reported that L. Strauss has agreed to direct a spring theater program. The program would run for four weeks in May and be held outside, weather dependent. It would be a week to week format without a final production.
- Fishing Derby- Derby will be run similar to the 2020 derby. No other report at this time.
- Bus Trips- Jones reported that the only trip still planned for 2021 is a Red Sox/Yankee baseball game as that trip was planned when the 2020 game was canceled. It is unknown at this time whether or not, P & R will hire a bus or if P & R will just sell the tickets and have people travel on their own. The game is in NY at Yankee Stadium.
- Basketball- Berardis reported that there was no winter league. He suggested we offer a summer league but keep it informal. Jones will reach out to a local past player for assistance and feedback about running a 2021 summer league.
- Summer Program- registration open.
- Summer Concerts – All booked. Committee to look into offering a food option at each show. Concerts will be at Plattwood Park or Devitt Field.
- Family Day/5K- Jones reported that the merchants are planning to hold the event on September 18<sup>th</sup>. P & R will offer the 5K. Commission discussed moving the fireworks to another date to spread out the town events. Community feedback supported this idea.

Commission would like to push the fireworks to the evening of the Halloween event which is

scheduled for Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Jones to speak to the BOS and the sponsors of the fireworks to get their opinion.

- Carnival 2021-canceled for 2021 but maybe a different event will be planned. Talk of a craft beer festival. Jones to speak to High Nine Brewery.
- Parks:
  - Devitt- DRCLL to start practice soon.
  - Town Landing – Applications are coming in for summer and fall weddings.
  - Plattwood- Two applications for park use were discussed:
    - The Nest submitted an application for park use for the third annual water lantern festival to be held Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup>.
    - A small independent film company filed an application to shoot a movie scene at Plattwood on two dates. They will utilize the playground, skate park and ball field. The Commission voted to waive the use fee, but not the security deposit and the requirement for liability insurance. The application was approved pending more information such as what type of film it is, where it will be shown, will there be any alcohol or drug use depicted? Will it show Deep River in a negative light? Jones to inquire to applicant for clarification.

Berardis made a motion to approve the park use applications presented to the Commission. Edgerton seconded. Motion passed.

- Brockway Ferry –No report

#### Old Business/New Business:

Jones proposed raising the park use fee for general use for non-residents as the fees have not been raised in years. Berardis made a motion to raise fees for non-residents by \$10.00 at Plattwood, the Town Landing and at Devitt Field. Edgerton seconded. Motion passed.

Other Programs-C.Jones reported that the women's hiking club is ready to accept registrations. The 'mystery spot' Mondays program is starting on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The walking club is almost ready to launch.

Jones presented a joint venture program with Fortunato Farm located in Killingworth. It would include 4 weeks of horseback riding lessons to learn about rodeo and rope tossing. The Commission agreed to allow the program but did not want to spend any money on prizes or other awards for participants.

Regarding the election of officers for 2021; the Commission still needs to fill the positions of Chairperson, Co-chair and Secretary. S.Ficca offered to serve as interim chairperson.

Motion made by Kateley to adjourn. Seconded by Berardis. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Next meeting of the Commission scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2021 via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Jones, Director  
Acting Secretary

