



Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes Special Meeting - August 3, 2022

The Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission called a special meeting on August 3, 2022. This meeting was held to replace the monthly meeting scheduled for August 10, 2022 due to a lack of quorum for the 10th. The meeting was held in a hybrid format.

P & R Director Carol Jones called the meeting to order at 7:41 pm. Members present were: Treasurer Miriam Morrissey, Dave Berardis, Jan Edgerton, Nicole Desrosiers, Kristen Chasse and Leslie Sheehan. Members absent were: Sarah Kateley, Brandon Woodcock, Kevin Crosby, Grace Petroka, Chris Marra and Elizabeth Taran.

Audience of Citizens: None

Secretary's Report: No report

Treasurer's Report: No report was presented.

Old/New business: Smoking ban in the parks

The Commission has been discussing this action for several months. Currently, there is no smoking at Plattwood Park beach and restrictions on smoking in all parks, where it is only allowed in designated areas. After much discussion, the Commission agreed that it is the intent of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Deep River to regulate the location where tobacco products, nicotine products and cannabis products are used within the town's parks and recreational areas in order to protect public health and safety. Further, it is the intent of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Deep River to prevent exposure of second-hand smoke and vapor of tobacco, nicotine and cannabis products to its citizens and to reduce littering in the parks and recreational areas.

Therefore, the Commission proposes a change to section 9, *Public Safety*, of the Town of Deep River's Ordinances and Special Acts, (revised 12/04/2020), to ban smoking at both Devitt Field park and at Plattwood Park and to restrict smoking to a designated area at the Town Landing boat launch facility.

The Commission voted unanimously to present this recommendation of a smoking ban to the Board of Selectman for their action.

The following was submitted to the First Selectman and Board of Selectman for their consideration and action:

Proposed smoking ban and restrictions presented to the Board of Selectman by Parks and Recreation Commission, August 2022

It is the intent of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Deep River to regulate the location where tobacco products, nicotine products and cannabis products are used within the town's parks and recreational areas in order to protect public health and safety. Further, it is the intent of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Deep River to prevent exposure of second-hand smoke and vapor of tobacco, nicotine and cannabis products to its citizens and to reduce littering in the parks and recreational areas.

Therefore, the Commission proposes a change to section 9, Public Safety, of the Town of Deep River's Ordinances and Special Acts, (revised 12/04/2020), to ban smoking at both Devitt Field park and at Plattwood Park and to restrict smoking to a designated area at the Town Landing boat launch facility.

The smoking ban would read as follows: "No person shall use, carry or smoke a lighted cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, pipe, or powered-on vaporizer device, or use a cannabis-type substance including marijuana, as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 21a-240, in any form in or upon Devitt Field park and Plattwood Park or areas of assembly owned, leased or controlled by the Town of Deep River and the Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission as may be specifically designated by the Board of Selectman. Smoking would continue to be allowed at the Town Landing Park, but restricted to designated area(s) only.

Furthermore, the Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission calls on the Board of Selectman to adopt the language of the resolution to include all municipal buildings and town properties and to introduce at town meeting this change to

Committee Reports:

- Summer Program-The camp is not full but P & R continues to offer weekly field trips, crafts and games to carry the weekly theme throughout. Some staffing issues.
- Summer Concerts- going well. Good Line up of bands with different genres. One has been rained out and rescheduled for 8/18/22.
- Family Day-Family day is Saturday, 9/17/22. P & R is offering the 5K race and 1 mile fun run. It is our 30th year. P & R needs to find sponsors for the race. Volunteers needed; Commission members should volunteer to work family day P & R events. P & R will also offer the pet parade @3:00pm. The fireworks gatherings will start at Plattwood Park beginning at 5:30-6:00; the fireworks themselves will go off at 8:30 pm. Jones will send out a list of what is needed regarding staffing for the events and also, the sponsor donation letter.
- Halloween Event-Saturday, October 29th.Details to be formulated. Trunk or treat event/movie?
- Bus Trips-A trip to the Meadow Lands is planned for Sunday, October 30th. Patriots vs Jets. Price\$185.00 early bird, \$200.00 after 9/1/22. Coach bus. Time to tailgate. P & R to offer grill and meat items. Registration open.
- Other Programs; Tai Chi, Qi-Gong and Yoga have been offered free of charge at the landing on different mornings since late June. No pre-registration needed. Program is going well.
- Parks:
 - Plattwood: field renovations are underway. Sprinkler system fixed. Cameras are out near basketball court; found mouse nest inside so have to replace junction box. Graffiti had to be removed from skate park. Playground inspected and ideas/costs for upgrade and replacement of equipment given to BOS as town awarded playground grant along with the elementary school.
 - Devitt: Because of the grant, the playground was also inspected and ideas/costs for upgrade and replacement of equipment given to BOS.
 - Town Landing: Need to address roof on gazebo, in tough shape. Complaints about dog waste.
 - Brockway Ferry-No report

Adjournment: Morrissey made a motion to adjourn at 9:14 pm. Second by Berardis. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

Respectively submitted,

Carol Jones, Director

Acting Secretary