

**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, 05-17-2017**  
**Town Hall Conference Room**  
**7:00 pm**

Attendees: Laura Jaynes, Christine Lavoie, Peter Albert – Town Council member, Michael Thompson – School Board, Rick Greenier – MYA member

Parks and Recreation Director: Matt Casparius

Absent: Chris Christensen, Julie Poole, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Michelle Creswell- Secretary

Public: N/A

Start time: 7:03 pm

1. **Open Meeting/Introductions-** Welcome to Peter Albert the newly elected member of the Town Council.

- Peter will serve as the representative from the Town Council on this Committee.
- He replaces Councilor Dan Dwyer. Thank you for your service, Dan!

2. **Approval of minutes from April 19, 2017**

- Laura Jaynes made the motion to accept the April Meeting Minutes
- Rick Greenier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- Christine Lavoie made the correction of the setting should say – Town Hall, Memorial Conference Room, not Wasserman Park Function Hall.
- 3-0-2 motion passed

- 3 **Old Business**

- **Looking for new Parks & Rec Committee members** - Matt Casparius  
2 full member seats and 2 alternate seats still remain open.  
The group discussed to do more advertising or word of mouth.
- **Update from Merrimack Dog Park** - Christine Lavoie and Matt Casparius
  - The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the Dog Park was held on Saturday, May 6 @ 11:00 am.
  - There was a good turnout! Approx. 70 people attended on and off until about 1:00 pm.
  - There were new sponsor signs, raffles and displays which included a fund raising event at Friendly's.
- **Athletic Fields Subcommittee Update** – Mike Thompson, Rick Greenier and Matt Casparius.
  - This group met last week to look at some of the Town Properties to consider for ball fields.
  - They had reviewed the 2010 Field needs plan. There has been no changes over this time period.

- Merrimack still needs 20 fields to accommodate all of the programs for games.  
They felt the biggest need was for a rectangular multi-purpose field.  
Lacrosse and Soccer enrollment is up. Baseball is down.
- Mike took a look at Horse Hill = 25 acres but access would be difficult and the Conservation Commission manages this property.
- There is 40 acres at the Timpson Property off of Baboosic/South Baboosic Lake roads.  
Might be able to fit 2 multi-purpose fields.
- Rick states that there will be further discussion at a Meeting on May 31 @ the MYA building at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

#### 4 New Business

- **O’Gara Drive Discussion**- Mike Thompson spoke of the history of this property. 30 years ago, this property was leased to the Town of Merrimack by the School District. The lease is up next year, 2018. The Town needs to restore this area into its “original” state.
  - The Town and School are working together to work on this.
  - Matt led the discussion and suggestions on where to put:
  - **Ice Rink**: Move to Watson Park, should be easy to move here because there is electricity, water, parking, visibility from road etc.
  - **Basketball court**: MYA parking lot behind the building. \$40k-45k  
Question: Is there a traffic/rotary plan near MYA building? Is entrance changing?
  - **Skateboard Park**: Committee would like it to stay central, rebuild with new products/warranty etc. \$60K – 70K with concrete pad.

#### 5 Director's Report - Matt Casparius

- Summer Hiring Update
  - Hiring continues to be slow with 5 weeks until camp opening. Mike suggested contacting MHS Principal Ken Johnson for job postings.
- Summer Registration Update
  - Registrations are still coming in. Matt expects it will pick up shortly.
  - The basketball hoops have arrived for set-up at Wasserman Park thanks to resident Mark Roy’s donation of 10K.

#### 6 Organization Reports

- Senior Citizens Club – Maureen Hall was not present.
- MYA - Rick Greenier
  - Lacrosse, soccer, baseball and softball are in session.
  - Summer cheerleading and football registration is coming up.
- Town Council –Peter Albert: He is glad to be on P & R. He brings good knowledge to the table, after retiring from the Merrimack Police Department  
after 32 years. He stated that the Rotary Club will be sponsoring the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations and that O’Gara Drive is to be discussed  
at the upcoming annual Town Council retreat.
- School Board – Michael Thompson – Mike spoke personally about the end-of-the- year presentations given by all the schools at recent School Board meetings.  
-He was pleased by all of the positive activities going on in each building.

-As well as the fact that the Pledge of Allegiance is part of a daily routine.

- 7 Comments from the Public - was nothing.
- 8 Comments from the Committee - Matt reminded the Committee that we will hold Elections at the June meeting.
- 9 Future Meeting Dates
  - Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>
  - NO JULY MEETING.
- 10 Adjourned at 7:33 pm.
  - Mike Thompson made the motion.
  - Christine Lavoie 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
  - 5-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Jaynes