

**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, 01.21.15**  
**Town Hall Memorial Conference Room**  
**7:00pm**

Attendees: Chris Christensen, Shannon Barnes, Jackie Flood, Christine Lavoie, Dan Ricker, Dan Dwyer, Rick Greenier – MYA, Maureen Hall - Senior Citizens Club, Michelle Cushman and Laura Jaynes (7:06pm arrival)

Parks and Recreation Director: Matt Casparius

Absent:

Excused Absent:

Public: Megan Murphy

Start time: 7:02pm

1 – Open Meeting/Introduction

2 – Approval of minutes from November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

- Michelle Cushman made the motion to accept the November Meeting Minutes
- Chris Christensen 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 4-0-3 to accept minutes – with Dan Ricker, Christine Lavoie and Dan Dwyer as the 3

3 – New Business

a. Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal – Megan Murphy

- Junior at Merrimack High School
- Project for the Arts and Craft Building that would involve wood working, painting and cleaning items for that building
- Requires 80 hours of work
- Project has to wait until the ceiling is completed before this project can start
- Next step would be to complete the theme and bring it back to the Parks and Recreation Committee
- Christine Lavoie motioned to approve the Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal
- Shannon Barnes 2<sup>nd</sup> approve
- 9-0-0

b. Dog Park

i. Update on Fundraising Efforts

- \$17,890 balance as of 12.31.14
- Merrimack Cremation donation for \$5,000

ii. New Funding Request

- Request for \$100 to put flyer in Dog Licensing envelope
- Request for \$200 to give decals to businesses who sponsor
- Shannon Barnes made motion to request \$300 for flyers and decals
- Michelle Cushman 2<sup>nd</sup> motion
- 9-0-0

iii. Upcoming Events

- Guest Speaker on 01.22.15 at the Rotary Meeting
  - Doggie Playdates on Saturday and Sundays at 10am at K9 Country
  - Petsafe/Bark for your park contest for Spring
- c. Review of the Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee Annual Report
- Chris Christensen spoke about this report as informational

4 – Old Business

- a. Update on Proposed Changes to Parks & Recreation Committee By-Laws
- Matt Casparius spoke that the Town Council had recommendations for the By-Laws that will not make the cut off time for this year

5 – Director's Report - Matt Casparius

- a. Budget Update
- Budget was presented to Town Council for any changes
- b. Wasserman Park Improvement Project Update
- Updates were presented on 12.18.14 and were approved by Town Council
    - Creation of new lower parking lot (former dining hall site)
    - Repairs to exterior Function Hall
    - Repairs to exterior/interior Arts & Crafts
    - Restoration of Cabin 12
    - Roof repairs to Theatre
    - ADA accessible ramps for the Parks and Rec Office and Day Camp Office
- c. Ice Rink on O’Gara Drive is now open for the Season
- i. Rink Schedule – Open 7 days a week, with lights on 4:30pm – 10pm
  - ii. Closed for Maintenance – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30
- d. Program Events
- i. Report on Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>
    - About 400 people at the tree lighting
  - ii. Report on Bus Trip to White Christmas on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>
    - 48 people went on the trip
  - iii. New Parks & Recreation Website – [www.merrimackparksandrec.org](http://www.merrimackparksandrec.org)
  - iv. Winter Brochure now available
  - v. Registration for Naticook Day Camp now open
- e. Upcoming Department Events
- i. Seasonal Job Fair at O’Leary Center from 10am – 12:30pm on February 7, 2015 – Volunteers needed
  - ii. Winter Carnival at Wasserman Park from 12pm – 3pm on Saturday, February 21, 2015 – Volunteers needed
  - iii. Easter Egg Hunt at Wasserman Park from 10am – 11:30am on Saturday, March 28, 2015 – Volunteers needed
  - iv. Upcoming Trips:

- i. Cherry Blossom Festival & Washington D.C. Sightseeing Trip in conjunction with Amherst and Milford Parks and Recreation Committees
- ii. Canyon Country – Arizona and Utah from October 1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- iii. Martha's Vineyard trip for July
- iv. Fishercats in June – box seat, fireworks and tent in the field overnight to watch a movie for \$15

#### 6 – Organization Reports

- a. Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall
  - Elections of new officers - Bruce Rasmussen – President, Ron Farland - Vice President, Louise Tedescki – Secretary and Bea Lampen - Treasurer
  - 230 members
  - Installation Dinner 02.14.15
  - St. Patrick's Day Dance 03.11.15
  - Memorial Service 05.18.15
  - Play in Newport Playhouse in RI has 2 seats left 04.29.15
- b. MYA - Rick Greenier
  - Basketball and wrestling is current active
  - New members Rick Greenier, Brian LeClaire and Melanie Lesmirises is Assistant Secretary
  - Baseball and Lacrosse is open for registration
- c. Town Council –Dan Dwyer
  - Nothing to report
- d. School Board - Shannon Barnes
  - Wrapped up budget session
  - Track was repaired and more improvements for the 2016/2017 budget

7 – Comments from the Public - was nothing

8 – Comments from the Committee – was nothing

#### 9 – Next Meeting Date/Time:

- 02.18.15
- 03.18.15

#### 10 – Adjourn at 7:58pm

- Shannon Barnes made the motion to adjourn at 7:58pm
- Laura Jaynes 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 9-0-0

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Cushman