

**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 15, 2014**  
**7:00 pm Town Hall Memorial Conference Room**

~~Accepted as amended Feb 19, 2014~~

Attendees: Chris Christensen, Laura Jaynes, Christine Lavoie, Dan Dwyer, Shannon Barnes (arrived at 7:10 pm.)

P & R Department Rep.: Matt Casparius ~~and Kelly Valluzzi~~

Start Time: 7:04 pm

~~1.~~ Introductions: Matt Casparius the new P & R Director, ~~by Kelly Valluzzi~~

- Right to Know Meeting dates are set up for: Tuesday, Jan 21 and Wed. Feb. 5

2. Approval of December 18, 2013 minutes

- Laura Jaynes made motion to accept minutes
  - Christine Lavoie 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
  - 4-0-0 to accept minutes (Shannon Barnes arrived late and missed the vote)

3. Director/Chair Updates

a) The new Merrimack Parks & Recreation Director, Matt Casparius, enthusiastically introduced himself to the Committee. He is very excited to be working for Merrimack and is coming here with 14 years of prior experience from Manchester-by-The-Sea, MA.

- Matt has helped raise program funding and has knowledge about using “revolving” funds. He has experience in running camps and swim programs among many others.
- He is interested in creating a 5 -10 year plan for Wasserman Park.
- Matt’s long term goals are: communication and publicity

b) Winter Carnival: Reminder:

- **Saturday, February 22, 2014: from 12 -3 pm.** All committee members are invited to attend!

c) Status of Park-To-Do List: After some discussion, the committee decided to review this list on a quarterly basis, especially now that Matt Casparius is on board. We look forward to his input.

## **Old Business**

1. Dog Park – No new business to report. Forester Dan Cyr has marked the trees to come down.
2. Budget Process:
  - a. Wasserman Park: Presently, there is no information concerning the demolition of the Dining Hall or cabins. Apparently the project is on hold due to the discovery of asbestos around the boiler. PR Chair Chris Christensen and Matt Casparius went to the Town Council for budget information. Wasserman Park needs an Engineering Study for a Road Plan.
  - b. Other discussion from TC budget review. Added \$8,000 for Pavilion. \$10,000 for maintenance.

## **New Business**

1. By-Laws review sub-committee: This Committee is looking for volunteers to review the By-Laws. Laura Jaynes and Shannon Barnes offered to try to work on this.
2. General Discussion: Town-wide Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The committee was asked to think about this idea.
  - Methodology: subcommittee or part of regular meetings
  - Outside inputs, staff, volunteers?
  - Other sense of direction, assets available.
3. Web site? What would you like to see? Review site for February comments.
4. Next Meeting Dates: Wed. Feb. 19, 2014  
March 19, 2014

## **Updates:**

- 1- Senior Citizens Club – New Appointment Coming
- 2- MYA – Melanie Lesmerises not present
- 3- Town Council- Dan Dwyer reported that they are in the midst of the budget process.
- 4- School Board – Shannon Barnes reported that they are waiting for a legal rendering for the O’Gara property. There will then be a meeting between School Board and Town Council.
- 5- High School Representative – no student rep. at this time.

Comments from the Public: no one present.

Comments from the Committee: There were none.

Adjourn at 7:47 pm

- Shannon Barnes made motion to adjourn, Dan Dwyer 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 5-0-0