

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 03.19.14
7:00 Town Hall Memorial Conference Room

Attendees: Matt Casparius, Chris Christensen, Laura Jaynes, Jackie Flood, Shannon Barnes, Christine Lavoie, Paul Davidson, Dan Ricker (new member) and Michelle Cushman

Absent: Melanie Lesmerises and Dan Dwyer

Start time: 7:03pm

1 – Open Meeting/Introduction of members and guests

2 – Approval of 01.15.14 and 02.19.14 Meeting minutes were accepted

- January was already approved
- Laura Jaynes made the motion to accept the February Meeting Minutes
- Shannon Barnes 2nd the motion
- 6-0-1 to accept minutes

3 – Eagle Scout Project Idea – Veteran's Park – Hayden Faust

- Hayden Faust presented the committee with the idea to build a memorial to honor the Merrimack residents who served in WWII for Veteran's Park
- It would be an update to what is currently there – he would like to mimic many of the same features as well as update some
- Need about \$2700 for the project that would be raised through fund raisers from the Scouts
 - Chris Christensen recommended sending organization letters for support
- Wants approval for the project to move forward
- Shannon Barnes asked what the maintenance
 - Hayden Faust spoke with Adam Jacobs at the DPW regarding maintenance and was told it should be low
- Hayden Faust will add more names if they find anymore that are missing
- Dan Ricker asked about the area near the current memorial – land, grass, stones, walkway etc
- Chris Christensen asked about the expediency of the wood
 - Hayden Faust said that the 1st sign lasted about 40 years and was untreated. His plan has treated wood to help last longer
- Chris Christensen asked what is the time line of this project
 - Hayden Faust would like to present/dedicate the memorial in November to be around Veteran's Day
- Shannon Barnes asked that the Parks and Recreation committee be kept in the loop regarding this project
- Shannon Barnes made the motion to support Hayden Faust and the Eagle Scout Memorial Project Idea to go to Town Council
- Laura Jaynes 2nd the motion
- 7-0-0

4 – Director's Report - Matt Casparius

- a. Winter Carnival
 - Event was successful with between 500 – 600 people attending
- b. Summer Hiring
 - Almost finished on hiring staff – only 2 positions left to fill for the camp nurse and a swim instructor
- c. Budget Update
 - 04.08 town vote is still on tract
- d. Community Clean Up Day – Saturday, May 17th and June 21st
 - Both have been cancelled
- e. Summer Concert Series Information
 - 10 concerts have been scheduled and paid for by the town
 - Looking into more money for next year to expand the series
- f. Discussion about Committee Roles & Responsibilities
 - Advisory board to Matt Casparius and Town Council
 - Extra item added from Chris Christensen was getting the word out about P&R's – getting logo and brand for P&R
 - Extra item added from Matt Casparius was that 04.19 is the annual Easter Event
 - Extra item added from Matt Casparius was that the demolishing of the cabins and dining hall at Wasserman Park will be soon
 - Extra item added from Matt Casparius was that the last day of school, so far, is 06.20 and therefore the camp's opening day is scheduled for 06.23. Shannon Barnes said first day of school starts after Labor Day and asked what would happen with the camp. Matt Casparius said we might lose help due to that. Chris Christensen said maybe specialized groups might want to rent the camp. Matt Casparius said there were groups interested already.

5 – Old Business

- a. Dog Park Update - Matt Casparius
 - Bid for Town Council has been accepted for \$14,237 for the Forestry Management Project
 - Possible grant from Home Depot is still being looked into
 - Money from past fundraising totals \$6300 from the Dog Park Sub Committee
 - \$6500 from the Watson Park grant is still being looked into
 - Total needed for the Dog Park would be \$59,427 – which leaves \$24,324 left from fundraising that the Dog Park Sub Committee will help with
 - Installation is pending for the fall time frame
 - Town Council want to see how much money is raised before any money is released
 - 04.12 is the Rabies Clinic
- b. Discussion on Park Rentals - Matt Casparius
 - Funds/fees to charge to reserve the parks
 - Matt Casparius recommended \$125 for 5 hours as a rental fee for Watson Park
- c. By-Law Review Update - Chris Christensen
 - 5 person quorum is in the By-Laws now – is that what we want to keep
 - Need language in there for extra organizations that send representatives as their approved alternate (MYA would be an example)

- Need recommendation next month to present to the Town Council in May
 - Shannon Barnes and Laura Jaynes to make recommendations regarding the By-Laws
- 04.10 at 7pm is annual meeting for P&R to present to the Town Council

6 – New Business

- a. Tree Donation to Watson Park
 - Donation was made last year for a bench at Watson Park and now donator wants to change the bench to a tree
 - Jackie Flood suggested looking at the Master Plan for the tree schema for best place to plant the tree

7 – Sub-Committee Updates

- a. Senior Citizens Club – need representative – Matt attended their last meeting and asked for a representative
- b. MYA - no representative - Melanie Lesmerises
- c. Town Council - no representative - Dan Dwyer
- d. School Board - Shannon Barnes
 - Graduation is 06.14.14
 - Tennis court update – Town Council is in breach with the School District with the Federal Government based on a grant
 - Need time to get plan together
 - Disk Golf was mentioned as an idea and Shannon Barnes told them to speak with Matt Casparius (Matt Fairbanks might be the contact)
- e. High School Representative - Paul Davidson
 - Not official member – next step would be contact the Town Council
 - Soccer fields are declining

8 – Future meeting dates

- a. April 16, 2014
- b. May 21, 2014

9 – Comments from the Public was nothing

10 – Comments from the Committee

- Matt Casparius commented that not all the fields would be open on 04.01.14 due to the amount of snow this winter – possibly mid-April
- Laura Jaynes thanked Matt Casparius for all his hard work
- Chris Christensen commented that he's happy the committee is growing with Paul Davidson and Dan Ricker
- Matt Casparius is in charge of the 4th of July Parade
- Jackie Flood reminded everyone that 06.14.14 is the Town Yard Sale

11 – Adjourn at 8:35pm

- Shannon Barnes made the motion to adjourn
- Laura Jaynes 2nd the motion
- 7-0-0

Respectively submitted,
Michelle Cushman