

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 11.12.14
Town Hall Memorial Conference Room
7:00pm

Attendees: Chris Christensen, Laura Jaynes, Shannon Barnes, Jackie Flood, Maureen Hall - Senior Citizens Club and Michelle Cushman

Parks and Recreation Director: Matt Casparius

Absent:

Excused Absent: Dan Ricker, Christine Lavoie, Dan Dwyer and Michelle Walters-Byrne – MYA

Representative

Public: Ian Finken, Lindsey Finken and David Milton

Start time: 7:08pm

1 – Open Meeting/Introduction

2 – Approval of September 17th, 2014 minutes

- Shannon Barnes made the motion to accept the September Meeting Minutes
- Laura Jaynes 2nd the motion
- 4-0-2 to accept minutes with Jackie Flood and Maureen Hall as the 2

3 – New Business

- a. Eagle Scout Candidate Ian Finken – Sign Project Proposal
 - Ian Finken, Eagle Scout Troop 401, spoke about his proposal of 7 signs at Wasserman Park for navigation around the park
 - Materials would include pressure treated posts with pine signs
 - Early spring is when the troop wants to get the signs in
 - Fundraising for the cost of the materials during the winter which might include a soup and salad event
 - Chris Christensen suggested during the Winter Carnival might be an option for the soup and salad fund raiser
 - Shannon Barnes made the motion to recommend the Eagle Scout Troop to present their Sign Project Proposal to the Town Council
 - Laura Jaynes 2nd the motion
 - 6-0-0

4 – Old Business

- a. Parks & Recreation Committee By-Laws
 - Shannon Barnes reviewed the updates made in yellow
 - Additional updates:
 - There shall be a Parks and Recreation Committee consisting of nine (9) residents to ten (10)
 - The Town Council shall appoint five (5) members to six (6)

- Shannon Barnes made the motion to approve the By-laws as amended and Charter to the Town Council
- Jackie Flood 2nd the motion
- 6-0-0

- b. Dog Park Update
 - Matt Casparius read Christine Lavoie notes from the subcommittee
 - Total amount raised for September and October was \$2925.64 and \$2500 of it was from an anonymous donation
 - Spent \$800 and still owe \$800 on the marketing campaign
 - \$10,650.28 balance as of 10.31.14
 - Next Fund raising event is Picture with Santa
 - bring your dog to Pet's Choice on 11.15.14 from 11-3
 - \$20 for the picture
 - 25% of the proceeds will be donated to the dog park

- c. Long Term Planning for Wasserman Park
 - Matt Casparius to go to Town Council with proposals on how to spend the \$55,000 that was allocated from the Town Council
 - The following are proposals for Phase 1 Project List:
 - New lower parking lot/cabin demolition - \$19,500
 - Function Hall exterior improvements - \$10,000
 - Theater improvements - \$1,000
 - Arts & Crafts building - \$6,000
 - Demolition of stone pump house - \$1,000
 - Parks and Recreation office accessibility - \$6,500
 - Day camp office/camp health center accessibility - \$6,500
 - Cabin 12/Bear's Den - \$4,500
 - The following are proposals for Phase 2 Project List:
 - Restoration of the MYA storage building - \$8,500
 - Demolition of Wasserman House - \$7,500
 - Demolition of Cabin 15/Birds Nest - \$7,500
 - Boathouse painting & repairs - \$1,250
 - Painting of Cabin 14/Junior Camp building - \$1,050
 - The following is the proposal for Phase 3 Project List
 - Function Hall sprinkler and heating system - \$110,000
 - The following is the proposal for Phase 3 Project List
 - Lake Naticook Beach erosion – no estimate yet on cost

- d. Annual Park Reviews
 - Matt Casparius that mentioned that Kid's Cove and Wasserman Park need to be reviewed
 - Matt Casparius suggested that either the park reviews should be put on hold until spring or do them now by picking a day and go and do them all because the budget is the same as last year
 - Jackie Flood 2nd that the reviews should be put on hold for the same reasons
 - Chris Christensen suggested doing the park reviews during Spring Clean Up
 - By consensus, the committee will put the parks review on hold until spring

5 – Director's Report - Matt Casparius

- a. Budget Update
 - The 2015-16 Parks and Recreation Budget to the Town Council for review
 - \$363,973 for the 2015-16 Parks and Recreation Budget
 - \$172,199 for the 2015-16 Day Camp Budget
 - Revolving fund line item is a new proposal
- b. Report on Fall Programs and Events
 - i. Walking Tours
 - Successful walking tours at Wasserman Park
 - ii. Halloween Party
 - Huge success
 - iii. Bus Trips to Mohegan Sun
 - Successful trip
 - iv. Santa Calling Program – December 16th and 17th
 - v. Bus Trip to White Christmas on December 21, 2014
- c. Annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting – Saturday, December 6, 2014
 - i. Committee Float – no float in the parade for Parks and Recreation
- d. Ice Rink Update
 - Proposed open will be around late December/early January
- e. Upcoming Department Events
 - i. Seasonal Job Fair – February 7, 2015
 - ii. Winter Carnival – Saturday, February 21, 2015
 - iii. Summer Camp Fair – Saturday, March 14, 2015? April?
 - iv. Easter Egg Hunt – Tentatively Saturday, April 4, 2015
 - v. Community Clean Up Day – Saturday, May 2, 2015
- f. Whole Parks and Recreation group have moved from Wasserman Park to the winter location until April
- g. Accreditation score was 98.7%

6 – Sub-Committee Updates (to be updated to Member Organizations for the next meeting)

- Chris Christensen made the comment to update the Sub-Committee to be changed to Member Organizations
- a. Senior Citizens Club – Maureen Hall
 - Welcome new club member Maureen Hall to the Parks and Recreation Committee
 - New members are joining
 - 11.05.14 – A Wonderful Life trip was successful

- 11.19.14 – trip to Foxwoods Casino and is open to the public
 - 12.09.14 – Christmas at the White Mountains Indian Head Resort with 95 people have signed up
 - 12.06.14 – dinner for Senior Citizens Club members
- b. MYA - Michelle Walters-Byrne absent
- c. Town Council –Dan Dwyer absent
- d. School Board - Shannon Barnes
- A meeting is getting planned for the spring regarding the Skate Board Park with both the School Board and Town Council to manage that property at O’Gara

7 – Comments from the Public - was nothing

8 – Comments from the Committee – was nothing

9 – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- No December meeting
- 01.21.15

10 – Adjourn at 8:55pm

- Laura Jaynes made the motion to adjourn at 8:55pm
- Michelle Cushman 2nd the motion
- 6-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Cushman