

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes
Wednesday, June 19, 2013, 6:30 pm
Town Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Tom Thornton Laura Jaynes Chris Christensen
 Dan Dwyer Shannon Barnes Michelle Creswell
 Melanie Lesmerises Lynne Wenz Sherry Kalish
Absent: Holly Lewis, Lorraine Lessard

The meeting began at 6:36 pm.

The May minutes were accepted as written. Motion by Shannon, 2nd by Chris 7-0-0.

- Tom Thornton moved items on the agenda to help participants with time limits.

Moved to 1st (from New Business:) Robin House, Girl Scout leader:
Project for Wasserman Park.

- Merrimack Middle School students and Girl Scouts: Molly Mear and Katie MacDonald presented their rudimentary ideas of building a "Snack Shack" at Wasserman Park as their "Silver Award" project. Under Girl Scout guidelines, the girls must put in 50 hours of work each. Molly and Katie presented a rough draft of what they how envision this Snack Shack. They felt there was a need for a place for residents to purchase drinks and snacks. Their idea is to mount a shack on a trailer so that it is portable. They would like all proceeds to benefit Wasserman Park.

After questions and discussion about the next steps in this process, the girls were commended for their efforts.

Chris Christensen moved to accept the concept of a moveable Snack Shack, with 2nd by Shannon Barnes. Approved 7-0-0

Tom will be primary liaison. 7-0-0 The Committee recommended that Molly and Katie, under the guidance of Troop Leader, Robin House should now proceed with a more detailed conceptual plan to present to the Town Council.

(Moved from Old Business): Watson Park

- a. Pavilion Update: Jackie Flood: Jackie began with a moment of silence to for Harold Watson, who recently passed.
 - The Pavilion is finished! It was a larger project than anticipated, but with the effort of many volunteers, it is now complete. The next step is funding for electricity and/or engraved bricks for residents to purchase. After some discussion about use of the Pavilion, the Committee recommended that presently this facility could be "reserved" for groups in town through the P & R department just like any other Park facility.

If changes need to be made, the Committee can reconsider this at a later time.

Tom made the motion, 2nd by Michelle. 7-0-0

Jackie reminded the Committee that the Merrimack Community Yard Sale is this Saturday, June 22nd at Watson Park from 9-2. Volunteers are needed.

New Business item:

Terry Benhardt spoke for the Family of Dave Smith, who would like to donate a bench in his memory at the MYA Bise Field.

The family will pay for the bench.

Shannon made the motion, 2nd by Dan Dwyer to accept this donation. 7-0-0

Election of Officers: After some discussion and nominations, the Officers of the P & R Committee for 2013 -2014 shall be:

Tom Thornton, Chairperson

Chris Christensen, Vice-Chairperson

Michelle Cushman, Secretary

Thanks to Laura for serving as Secretary.

Vote: 7-0-0

Old Business:

1. Wasserman Park:

- a. Kyle is working on bids for clearing of the Dog Park area.
- b. Day Camp- is ready to go!
- c. Lights in Parking Lot: tabled
- d. Separate account for Wasserman Park: tabled

New Business:

1. Lake Naticook, Milfoil update: Laura Jaynes introduced Murray Collette, President of the Lake Naticook Conservation Assoc. (LNCA)

Murray presented a power point to educate people about the impact of the invasive species, Milfoil, on Lake Naticook. His power point included a detailed time-line of what the LNCA is doing; including working with DES and The New Hampshire Lakes group. He reiterated that the LNCA's goal is to educate and be pro-active with this situation.

At this time, the Boat Launch at Veteran's Park has been closed since June 4, for herbicide treatment. Murray requested that the launch stay closed to motor boats until we hear the DES results.

After some discussion, Laura made the motion to close the boat launch until there is further word from DES, 2nd by Shannon.

(hopefully by July 10 which is just before the next Town Council meeting)
vote passed: 6-1-0 (Dan Dwyer could not support this motion.)

*At this time, Chair Tom Thornton suggested a short break to recognize P & R Director Sherry Kalish as she will be retiring from her position on June 30th.

8:05 pm - The meeting resumed.

2. Dog Park fundraising: tabled.

Skateboard Park Attendant: Junie Pierce spoke about how lucky she felt to have worked with P & R Director, Sherry Kalish. She listed many attributes about Sherry. She found that Sherry was always a pleasure to work with. Junie remarked that Sherry very capable and a multi-tasker. Junie also thought that Sherry was courageous and never had a hidden agenda.

Junie was amazed at how much Sherry could do and do it well. In the 6 years that "retired" teacher Junie worked for Sherry, she never saw her be mean or rude. Sherry was always diplomatic, and a 1st rate communicator. Sherry was the epitome of "class." Good luck in your retirement, Sherry! Sherry Kalish will be missed.

Updates from the following:

- a. Senior Citizens Club: no rep. Tabled
- b. MYA: Melanie stated that spring sports are finished up.
The MYA contract is being reviewed.
- c. Town Council: Dan Dwyer-no further updates.
- d. School Board Rep.: Shannon had no new information.
- e. High School Rep.: no rep. tabled. Need to find a new High School rep.

No further comments from the Committee.

No further comments from the public.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm motion by Dan 2nd by Chris.

The Parks & Recreation Committee does not have a meeting in July.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 8th at 5:00 pm at Wasserman Park. This is a traditional August meeting time where the Committee meets at the park to have cook-out at the Naticook Day Camp's BBQ, have our monthly meeting, and attend in the Camp's Theater Show.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Jaynes