

**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, 08.17.16**  
**Merrimack Town Hall, Memorial Conference Room**  
**7:00 pm**

Attendees: Chris Christensen, Laura Jaynes, Christine Lavoie, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Michael Thompson – School Board Member, Dan Dwyer – Town Council and Michelle Cushman  
Parks and Recreation Director: Matt Casparius

Absent:

Excused: Julie Poole and Rick Greenier – MYA

Public: Merrimack Police Chief Doyle, Tom Price and Megan Gaudette

Start time: 7:00pm

- 1 Open Meeting/Introduction
- 2 Approval of minutes from June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016
  - Christine Lavoie made the motion to accept the June Meeting Minutes
  - Maureen Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
  - 5-0-2 motion passed
- 3 New Business
  - Committee Member Openings on the Parks & Recreation Committee
    - 2 full member and 2 alternate members are open on the committee
  - Abbie Griffin Park - Bandstand reservations discussion - Matt Casparius
    - Residents can make reservations without a fee for Abbie Griffin Park
    - One group caused a cleanup needed due to candle wax that was left behind on the bandstand
    - Suggestions: should a fee that will not be returned or deposit that can be returned if park is left the way it was before the function
    - Mike Thompson suggested that because this was one time in 20 years we shouldn't charge a fee and Dan Dwyer agreed
  - Wasserman Park –Waterfront Issues – MPD Chief Doyle
    - Perceived problems and every call made for Wasserman Park have always been followed up from the Merrimack Police Department and will always continue to respond to calls
    - See attachment for details regarding responses to Wasserman Park and Watson Park
    - Merrimack Police Department can't ask for people's identification due to it is against the law to do so and no other group, example - Town Council, to ask for identification
    - Tom Price commented that he has seen alcohol as well as misconduct at Wasserman Park
      - Suggestion to sell beach tags that should be in your car while at the park

- Megan Gaudette commented that the park had trash all over the parking lot including beer bottles as well as trash on the beach
- Matt Casparius commented that after 2 visits over the weekend of 08.12.16 due to the calls made, he did not find any problems at Wasserman Park
- The Merrimack Police Department has temporarily donated a radio to the Merrimack Parks and Recreation for the attendant that will be at Wasserman Park during the weekend hours if needed
- Possible rewrite of some of the parking and renting ordinances for Wasserman Park
- Chris Christensen commented that the parking lots need to be reviewed and possible suggestion to leave reminder notices on cars for resident and nonresident parking areas

#### 4 Old Business

- Update from the Friends of the Merrimack Dog Park - Christine Lavoie and Matt Casparius
  - Project Update
    - Rebidding in progress
    - Pending final approval from the Town Council in September the dog park will proceed because the subcommittee revised and lowered the budget
  - Upcoming Fundraisers – none scheduled as of right now

#### 5 Director's Report - Matt Casparius

- Summer Review
  - 843 registrations for 2016
  - 804 registrations for 2015
  - 750 registrations for 2014
  - 1 week theatre camp was a success ages 7-14 years old
  - Half day preschool program ages 3-5 years old
  - Summer concerts have been successful with approximately 120 people per concert
    - 2015 was 150 approximately people
    - 2014 was 80 approximately people
    - 2013 was 40 approximately people
  - 4 Summer movie nights have been successful – 90 people in June, 125 in people in July and over 200 people at last movie with one movie left
- Update on summer repairs at Wasserman Park
  - Sprinkler system
- New projects at Wasserman Park
  - Septic System Issues
  - Possible Waterfront Improvements
    - Grass over growth
    - Dock area
      - Dan Dwyer suggested dredging the area to make more swimming area
- Fall Activities Brochure
  - Brochure is almost complete
  - Brochures will be located at the Town Hall, O'Leary Senior Center and Parks and Recreation Department
  - August 20<sup>th</sup> community blood drive at O'Leary Senior Center
  - Last concert is Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>

- Last movie is Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>
- Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 09.11

#### 6 Organization Reports

- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall
  - September 7<sup>th</sup> - Cape Cod Canal Cruise & Sandwich Glass Museum
  - October 26<sup>th</sup> – Ogunquit Playhouse Million Dollar Quintet
  - November 16<sup>th</sup> – Foxwoods Trip
  - November 30<sup>th</sup> – Newport Playhouse and Cabaret is sold out
- MYA - Rick Greenier – not present and Matt Casparius read Rick's Greenier's email update
  - Sports currently in session include football, cheerleading, lacrosse and soccer are wrapping up
  - 3 year lease was renewed with the town
- Town Council –Dan Dwyer
  - New poling spot at St John Newman Church at 101A, the new middle school and James Masticola
- School Board – Michael Thompson
  - Track is almost completed
  - September 6<sup>th</sup> is the first day of school

#### 7 Comments from the Public - was nothing

#### 8 Comments from the Committee - was nothing

#### 9 Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>
- Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

#### 10 Adjourn at 8:01pm

- Dan Dwyer made the motion to adjourn at 8:01pm
- Michael Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 7-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Cushman