

Recreation Commission meeting Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Tana Babbitt in attendance
Robert Benton in attendance
Len Cidado in attendance
Jennifer Gallagher in attendance
Charlie Hammond in attendance
Mike McDonald, Chairman in attendance
Elizabeth Nikiciuk in attendance

Jennifer Hruniak, Director in attendance

Meeting commenced at 7:05PM

Review and Vote on November Minutes

The meeting minutes of November 24, 2009 were reviewed. Tana motioned to accept, Bob seconded, all in favor, November minutes accepted.

Old Business

Jen H. confirmed that all Commission members have reviewed the summary of the conflict of interest law and returned acknowledgement of receipt to Town Clerk, Jeremy Gillis.

Bob said he continues to work with the Lion's Club on a duck race fund raising event. It has been difficult to find a suitable location for this event. Jen H. will add this event to the department's punch list.

Vote to Appoint New Commission Chairperson

The vote to appoint a new chairperson was tabled until next meeting to give the Commission members more time to consider taking on this responsibility.

2009 Annual Report

Jen H. distributed a draft of the 2009 Annual Report for review. Len motioned to accept, Charlie seconded, all in favor, 2009 Annual Report accepted.

Gift Account Expenditures

Jen H. reported that in preparation of the department's move to Frothingham Hall, the gym floor needed resurfacing, the carpets needed cleaning, and the telephone system needed to be installed. These expenses will be shared between the Recreation Department and the Council on Aging. The department's share of these costs is approximately \$2,445. Since the department's operating budget

cannot cover all of these expenses, a vote is needed to use funds from the gift account. The Town Accountant has already given her approval of these gift account expenditures. Len motioned to pay approximately \$2,445 from the gift account for the telephone installation, carpet cleaning and floor resurfacing, Bob seconded, all in favor, expenditures approved.

Frothingham Hall Update

Jen H. reported that the move from the town offices to Frothingham Hall will be complete by January 19th. The Friends of Frothingham Hall have met twice and are in the process of establishing their status as a non-profit organization. Friends of Frothingham Hall membership will be open to all interested individuals with an annual due of \$10 per person. The organization was formed to raise funds for the preservation, renovation and maintenance of Frothingham Hall as well as programs and events operated by the Council on Aging and Recreation Departments. The Friends group has expressed concerns about raising funds to cover building operating costs such as heat, electricity, security, phone service, custodial services and trash removal. However, these items will not be included in the departmental operating budgets for FY2011. Members of the Recreation Commission would like to attend the next Friends of Frothingham Hall meeting scheduled for February 9th to discuss this topic.

FY2011 Budget

Jen H. reported that a level funded budget proposal is due by January 26th. Each department must also be prepared with recommendations on cutting their budget by 5%. Jen H. submitted 3 budget proposals to the Commission for review. The first proposal showed a level funded budget. The second proposal showed a 5% budget cut. The third proposal removed all town pool line items, which amounted to an almost 15% budget cut. Jen H. explained that the town pool needs significant repairs. She is waiting for a cost estimate from the DPW but expects it may be quite costly. Originally she intended to discuss these costs with SERD. However, the Town Accountant suggests making a request for capital funding. This may require the town pool to remain closed for one year in order to undergo maintenance. Mike suggested getting a second cost estimate for the pool repairs.

Road Race Update

Jen H. reported that the 5K Run for Rec is scheduled for Sunday, March 7, 2010 with a start time of 9:30AM. Jen G. developed a race route that begins and ends at the Middle School. Participants can register online at www.coolrunning.com for \$15, or the day of the race for \$20. 5K Sports has been hired to manage and time the race. Sponsorship request letters have been sent to 37 local businesses. Jen H. is drafting a road race flyer which includes a registration form. She asked the Commission to help distribute the flyer once it is complete.

CPA Update

Len reported that the CPC will be making a decision about the Shovel Shop Project at their next meeting on January 28th. He said there have been concerns that a funding problem could arise when a parcel of land becomes available for recreational purposes. Mike will send CPC Chair, Pat Hunt a letter stating the Recreation Commission has concerns about the Shovel Shop Project and ask if members of our Commission could attend their January 28th meeting for more information.

Finance Committee Member, Pat Goodman asked to speak about the Shovel Shop Project. He feels that taxpayers should not support loaning CPA funds to a private company and does not support the project. Tana asked what is motivating the town to take on the project at this time. Pat responded that the buildings could be demolished in August. Len is concerned that even if there is enough money remaining to purchase recreation land after funding the Shovel Shop Project, there will be no money left

to develop this land. Jen H. distributed a financial report completed by Town Accountant, Wendy Nightingale regarding CPA funds. The report shows that even if all three parcels of interest became available at the same time, there would still be enough money to fund the Shovel Shop Project and purchase these parcels. Even in the worst case scenario, funding would be available for the Shovel Shop Project and purchase of the three priority parcels.

New Business

Elizabeth said the MOMS Club would like to reserve Torie's Place Park on Sunday, May 2nd for an event. Mike said the field use fee could be waived for this group. Jen H. will send Elizabeth a field use permit application.

Jen H. reported that David Ames would like clarification on how many recreation fields are needed in town and what type. Len said a recreational complex should include fields for all the major sports including soccer, football, baseball, softball, lacrosse, and ultimate frisbee as well as tennis and basketball courts. In total, 4-6 full-size, multi-purpose fields are needed.

Jen H. asked Tana if she is involved with the youth basketball program that plays on Sunday mornings at Oliver Ames. Tana responded that she is involved with the program. This group plays at the same time as the adult open gym program run by our department. Tana asked Jen H. to find out what time the adult program ends so that an additional youth game can be scheduled each week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34PM

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Approval of Minutes

Michael McDonald, Chairman

Jennifer Hruniak, Recreation Director