

Recreation Commission meeting Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Tana Babbitt in attendance
Robert Benton not in attendance
Len Cidado in attendance
Jennifer Gallagher in attendance
Charlie Hammond not in attendance
Mike McDonald in attendance
Elizabeth Nikiciuk, Chair in attendance

Jennifer Hruniak, Director in attendance
Anne Daley, Program Director in attendance

Meeting commenced at 7:05PM

Review and Vote on February Minutes

The meeting minutes of February 9, 2010 were reviewed. Mike motioned to accept, Tana seconded, all in favor, February minutes accepted.

Old Business

Jen H. reported that she will meet with the Finance Committee on March 24th to discuss the Recreation Department budget. She distributed a report requested by Finance Committee member, Pat Goodman listing the total revenue of each program that took place in 2009. The only program not listed in the report is the town pool. She is still working on those figures and will forward them to the Commission when complete.

Elizabeth reported that Recreation and Council on Aging have come up with a design for a sign to be placed at the entrance of Frothingham Hall. The existing sign post is rotted. The new sign will need to include new posts. Len asked for the design specifications. He will bring them to the Southeastern Regional High School in hopes that they would be willing to take on this project.

Len reported that Historical Commission member, Ed Hands told him the town pool has no historical significance and therefore, would not be eligible for CPA funding.

Town Pool Repairs

Jen H. reported that she attended the Capital Planning meeting on March 1st with a request of \$40,000 to remove the docks at the town pool and purchase two new floating docks. The DPW has agreed to install the new docks. The Capital Planning Committee would like two more price quotes, including one for aluminum docks. They would also like to know the life span and warranty information about each

product. Jen H. will follow-up with Town Accountant, Wendy Nightingale once she gathers this information. Others questions that need consideration are where the new docks will be stored during the off-season and if the SERD Committee would be willing to contribute to the cost of the new docks. Mike feels the SERD Committee should be contacted as soon as possible on this topic. Elizabeth will touch base with SERD President, Susan Nipoti and report back to the Commission.

New Program Ideas

Anne reported on a number of new programs the department will offer this spring and summer including March Madness Basketball, Preschool Art and Science, Preschool Summer Program, Yoga, Zumba, Scrapbooking, Art Classes, Hip Hop Dance, Kayaking, Track & Field, Youth Dances and Movie Nights.

Jen H. informed the Commission that the 3rd Annual Holiday Egg Hunt will take place on Sunday, March 28th at 11AM with a rain date scheduled for Saturday, April 3rd. She asked the Commission to help spread the word that the department is seeking instructors for new programs such as Ballroom Dancing and Photography.

Road Race Update

Jen H. reported that 77 runners have registered for the road race so far. She reminded the Commission to arrive at 7:30AM on Sunday to assist with set-up and race day registrations. Volunteers have also been recruited from the high school cross country team and North Easton Savings Bank.

Recreation Field Needs

Jen H. commented that one of the goals listed in the Open Space and Recreation Plan is for the Recreation Commission to ensure that sufficient land is available for recreational facilities and programs. Town Planner, Alice Savage has asked the Commission to report on how many recreational fields are needed and why. Mike believes this information can be found in a report from the Recreation Summit that took place in 2007. This topic will be tabled until next meeting so that the report can be located and reviewed.

Friends Group Update

Jen H. reported that the Friends Group is in the process of applying for non-profit status with the state. Once the application is approved, a bank account for the organization can be opened. Jen H. passed out invitations to the Frothingham Hall Open House that will take place Wednesday, March 24th. Honey Baked Ham will be setting up a table at the open house and selling gift certificates. Entertainment books will also be sold at the event. The Friends of Frothingham Hall will receive 50% of the sales made on these products. It's About Thyme Restaurant will designate a date when a percentage of their sales will go to the Friends of Frothingham Hall. The Recreation Department will distribute flyers advertising this event at our upcoming egg hunt. Elizabeth suggests contacting Mario's Restaurant to hold a similar fundraising event. The next Friends of Frothingham Hall meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13th at 5:30PM.

CPA Update

Len reported that he voted to approve the Shovel Shop Project at the last CPC meeting. He also stated the Commission's position of letting the taxpayers have the opportunity to vote on this issue. He reported that CPC Chair, Pat Hunt has resigned. Len informed the CPC about the plan to purchase the Friends Crossing property that was discussed at the Commission's last meeting. Mike stated that he would still like to see the plan changed to multi-purpose fields when the proposal goes to the CPC. Tana

also feels that multi-purpose fields would better serve the town. Elizabeth asked Len to keep the Commission up to date on this project.

New Business

Jen H. reported that the Activate Easton Committee is holding a Walking Challenge for all public school staff. Staff members are given free pedometers and walking maps and challenged to complete 150,000 steps. The pedometers and other program prizes were donated by Blue Cross Blue Shield. So far 75 participants have registered.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17PM

Next Meeting Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Approval of Minutes

Elizabeth Nikiciuk, Chair

Jennifer Hruniak, Recreation Director