

Recreation Commission meeting Tuesday, September 22, 2009

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 not in attendance

Jennifer Hruniak, Director in attendance

Meeting commenced at 7:08PM

Review and Vote on August Minutes

The meeting minutes of August 18, 2009 were reviewed. Tana motioned to accept, Bob seconded, all in favor, August minutes accepted.

Joe Povoas – Povoas Park Proposal

Joe Povoas is the property owner of 80 Center Street, the empty lot on the corner of Bridge Street and Center Street. He would like to donate this property to the Town of Easton to be developed into a small park. The park would be comprised of 3-4 fixed benches, a walking path, new trees and shrubbery, low level lighting and a water bubbler. The park would be named "Povoas Park" in memory of his parents. Joe has secured volunteers from Stonehill College to assist with this project. He would like the support of the Recreation Commission as he requests funding from the CPA. Len asked if a swing set could be added to the project. Joe responded that he would not agree to a swing set on the property. Tana expressed her support of the project. Mike asked about the feasibility of a water bubbler and lighting. Joe has already contacted the Water Department about a water line for the bubbler. He is willing to purchase the bubbler. The lighting would mainly be for safety purposes. Joe will look into the possibility of solar lighting. Mike asked if the property has electricity. Joe responded no. Mike asked if engineering is needed. Joe will contact the building inspector. Bob asked if the project will be an issue with any neighbors. Joe is aware of only one neighbor who does not support the project. Charlie expressed his support of the project. Len commented that he has a CPA meeting Thursday in which he will discuss the project. Tana asked if this project will take away CPA funding from another project. Len responded that small projects like this are ideal as we wait for the availability of a large parcel. Mike motioned to support the concept of the proposed park at 80 Center Street as an active and passive recreational site, Len seconded, all in favor, motion accepted. Jen will contact Joe to let him know the Commission voted to support his proposal.

Old Business

Bob reported that Bill Casey of the DPW has plans to seed and fertilize Torie's Place Park this month. His company, Mr. Bob's Home Services, will seed and groom the field in the spring.

Jen reported that the Town Accountant gave her approval for the department to hold the road race, rubber ducky race and hole in one golf event that the Commission discussed at our last meeting as strategies to help generate revenue for the department. Jennifer will meet with Jen and Anne to plan and organize a winter road race. Bob said that the Lion's Club is interested in holding a rubber ducky race in conjunction with Recreation and sharing the proceeds. Bob will discuss this idea further with Lion's Club President, Bill Palmer.

Revised Financial Assistance Policy

Jen distributed a revised financial assistance policy to the Commission. The new policy asks families to fill out an application form similar to the application used by the School Department for their free/reduced lunch program. The amount of financial assistance awarded can then be determined by federal income guidelines. Jennifer said that sponsors can help the Recreation Department in offering this assistance. Len supports the new policy and complimented Jen on her revisions. Jen will review the new policy with David Colton for approval.

CPA Update

Len reported that the CPA is working on two historical projects, Unity Church and Dean Mill. He will present the Povoas Park proposal to the committee on Thursday.

New Business

Jen distributed a review of the Town's open meeting law conducted by Town Clerk, Jeremy Gillis. The Commission will take this review under advisement.

Jen distributed the fall programs flyer and reported that program registrations are going very well. Enrollment numbers are up for most programs. Running club has over 100 children, flag football has over 40, and tennis has 30 registrations. Field hockey and street hockey were the only programs with low numbers that needed to be cancelled.

Jen reported that the homework club has over 40 children enrolled. Unfortunately, the homework club and late bus are only running two days per week because HUGS funding is running low and funding for the late bus was cut. Jen distributed HUGS Walk donation forms to the Commission. She explained that additional funding for the homework club and late bus is dependent upon the success of the HUGS Walk on October 17th.

Mike asked about the status of the Friends of Frothingham Hall non-profit organization. Jen said the officers of the organization are coming together. An initial meeting should take place soon. So far the Recreation Department is being represented by Karen Kent who has agreed to be treasurer of the organization and Lisa Olsen.

Jen reported that she attended a Friends Crossing meeting earlier this month. The town is awaiting an appraisal of the property. Mike and Len expressed their desire to see multi-purpose fields built on any new property purchased by the town. Len said this is not because the Commission has something against the baseball league, but the Commission needs to represent every sports group in town.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38PM

Next Meeting Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Approval of Minutes

Michael McDonald, Chairman

Jennifer Hruniak, Recreation Director