

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
December 13th, 2017

Meeting called to order: 7:30 pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: George Caye, Al Larson, Dan Rezende, Mike Kelly, Renee Powell, Bill Nowak. Rita Goel

Also in Attendance: Ray Favreau, John Caldwell, and Craig Zimmerman, Mike Gonzalez, Ginny Hole, Ken Sek, Skip Bourke, Bob Dickensen

Approval of Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve the November minutes. Passed unanimously.

Public Input: Ginny Hole from the SWWW came to talk about the 4th Grade Bike Education Program in SW. She first thanked the PARC for all that we have done to help their group. She gave an overview of the f program which was started in 2010 as the first town in the state with help from Bike Walk CT. The program being run by SWWW and is part of the SW PE curriculum. They will be using this presentation for other towns to start the program. They are always looking for new volunteers for the 4th grade program. Anyone who is retired and would like to help during school hours can contact Ray who will get them in touch with Ken Sek who coordinates the volunteer list.

The group is also working on creating a cross town trail using the power lines (6.2 miles) that run north/south through town. They have the backing of Eversource and are seeking a DEEP grant to help with the costs.

SWWW has just celebrated 10 years as a subcommittee to PARC. Congratulations!

NEW VICE CHAIR: Craig Zimmerman has resigned from PARC. He introduced Mike Gonzalez as the new B of E liaison to PARC. We now need a new vice chair. George nominated Mike Kelly which was seconded by Bill Nowak. No one else was nominated. Voted on and passed unanimously.

Craig spoke to the group about the installation of lights on the Stadium Field. B of E is waiting for the school administrators to come to the board and request that lights be installed. The cost would be approx. \$400,000. The B of E will probably vote yes on the request. They would like our support once the school requests the lights. Ray and Al will draft two letters; one for our support to the B of E and the other to inform the Town Council that we support the installation of lights on the SWHS Stadium Field.

I Can Bike: This is a camp program for special needs kids to not only help them on a bike but to help build confidence. Program cost is \$11,000. They are looking for our support only and will seek other funding. Al made a motion that was seconded to support the program voted on and passed unanimously.

Master Plan Mapping: The group looked at two more parks in town.

1) Linear Park (1500 foot trail approx. 3 acres)

Strengths

- CT River access.

- Walking Trail
- Summer use

Weaknesses

- Flood plain
- No Amenities
- Land Locked (no other town property)
- No other recreational use due to flooding

Enhancements: None

2) Major Donnelly Preserve (116 Acres)

Strengths:

- Walking Trails
- Gazebo
- 3 access points with ample parking
- Picnic area
- Pond
- Located in the center of town

Weaknesses:

- Land use restrictions
- A lot of the area is wetlands

Enhancements:

- Disc Golf Course
- Bridle Path
- Connection to the New Brewery on Sullivan Ave.

Report of Council Liaison: None

OSTF: None

Report of the B of E Liaison: None

Report of Parks and Rec. Dir.: New Open House for the Rec. Dept. is January 20th, 2018.

Wapping Fair Committee reimbursed \$5800 for the damage caused during the fair.

The Bark Park 10th anniv. was held in the rain Nov. 19th. The Rec Dept has received 120 letters to Santa and they have responded to all of them.

Ray and others will be judging homes Dec 14th for the “Merry & Bright Holiday Lights Contest”

Meeting adjourned 9:32 pm

Next Meeting: 7:30pm January 10th, 2018

Respectfully Submitted

George S. Caye

