

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

March 14th, 2018

Meeting called to order: 7:35 pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: George Caye, Al Larson, Renee Powell, Mindy Lewis, Jeff Trachtenberg, Bill Nowak. Rita Goel, Katie Graham

Also in Attendance: Ray Favreau and John Caldwell

Ray introduced new members Mindy Lewis and Jeff Trachtenberg who replaced Mike Saimond and Craig Zimmerman.

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

Public Input: None.

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

- 1) Oak St. Park: 5 acres

Strengths: Basketball Court, Neighborhood Park Trails, Ice Skating

Weaknesses: No Parking Too small for any other amenities.

Needs: Too Small and isolated to change park.

- 2) Neiderwerfer Sanctuary: 117 acres

Strengths: Walking/Cross Country Skiing Trails, Highest point in town, Foliage, Signage, Benches, Agriculture, Wildlife Sanctuary, Sledding Hill

Weaknesses: No Active Rec. due to restrictions, No restrooms, No Storage areas or lights. Limited parking at both entrances

Needs: Better Parking Areas

- 3) Rye Street Park: 75 acres

Strengths: Second most used park in town. Holds many athletic events, ample parking, Tennis Courts, Basketball Courts, Storage Facility, Concession Stand, Lights, Bike Trail, Cross Country Skiing Pond for skating, Playground

Weaknesses: **Playground and Tennis Courts need repairs.**

Needs: **Splash Pad, New Playgroud, New Tennis Courts, Look into purchasing the Wagon shed land adjacent to the park.**

- 4) VMP: 24.5 acres

Strengths: Town swimming pool. Rotary Pavilion II, Picnic Area, Restrooms, Concessions, Storage facility, Open Field, Ample Parking, Lighting, Benches

Weaknesses: No Winter Activities, No Athletic Fields

Needs: Playground, Better Parking area, Better Security Cameras (Being installed this spring).

- 5) Wapping Park: 163 Acres

Strengths: Walking/Biking/Skiing Trails, Connectivity to many neighborhoods, Foliage, Signs, Parking,

Weaknesses: Passive Rec. only limited parking areas

Needs: Expand Parking areas, Disc Golf Course, Bee Keeping area, Purchase adjacent Kelly Property.

Report of Council Liaison: Matt talked to the Capitol Projects Comm. about not funding PARC for the last 7 years and asked that they consider putting some of our projects on the board. Ray is meeting with him this week to talk about the unused open space areas in town.

OSTF: They approved at their last meeting to have the Town Council move forward to Purchase Development Rights of the 50 acre Shepard Farm. The state would also be involved in this project. The cost to the town would be \$245,500 which would come out of the OSTF funds.

Report of the B of E Liaison: None

Report of Parks and Rec. Dir.: SWWW would like to be a sponsor for the 1st Annual Trailblazer Poker Ryed to be held at Rye Street Park on May 12th 2018 from 9-11. Registered riders will ride the mountain bike trails in the park and a certain stops will get a card. The best poker hand at the end of the race will receive half the entry money. The Bike Shop and CT Valley Brewery will also be a sponsor. SWWW would like PARC to give them \$250 to get their logo on shirts. They will also be there to work the event. A motion was made and seconded to give SWWW \$250 to be a sponsor for the event. Voted on and passed unanimously.

Priest Farm: The parks crew has been cleaning around the house to remove all the debris.

VMP Pavilion: The new Rotary Pavilion will be rented out this Spring and Fall but during the swim season people can rent it for pool parties. Groups will be limited to 20 people for a two hour party when the pool is open.

1000 plus people showed up for the open house at Wapping School. Ray is getting quotes to have the Wapping Café renovated so it can be rented.

The new Rec Dept catalog will be coming out this month with 30 new programs.

Please note that due to vacation week our next PARC meeting will be April 18th.

Meeting adjourned 9:28 pm

Next Meeting: 7:30pm April 18th, 2018

Respectfully Submitted

George S. Caye

