

MINUTES

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 14, 2010**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at 230C Mountain Road, Conference Room

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino, Chairman
.....Leeayn Burke, Clerk
.....Brian Casinghino
.....Bill Clark
.....Gerry Crane
.....Cindy Nicholson
.....Michael Roccanti
.....David Rusnock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Lou opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

MINUTES:

Cindy made a motion to accept the minutes. Brian seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PROGRAM REPORTS: No comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lou moved the order of the agenda.

Fields & Facilities: Wendy passed out a handout that the fields and facilities subcommittee compiled at their meeting. The subcommittee reevaluated the priority of users for the Packard Field and the policy for this field. Wendy said the meeting was for the purpose of revising the current field use policy for Packard Field now that we are anticipating the installation of lights at this field. The current policy states the field was designed as a premier soccer field for use by the Suffield High School varsity soccer program. The commission discussed the use of the Packard Field by various sports groups and all the possible scenarios. Wendy said that this is a draft and needs to be reviewed, edited and voted on. Once this is done the subcommittee will invite the principals of the travel soccer club to a meeting to review and discuss this policy.

Brian asked who would be in control of the lights. Wendy said that the lights are not there at the present time and she does not know how the timer will work or be controlled. Leeayn asked who would be paying for the electric bill. Wendy said that at this point the Town (Public Works) will be paying for this under their budget.

The commission discussed the field, wear and tear by users, lights, and maintaining the field as a premiere field. The commission also discussed putting the lights at another location.

Mike and Bill arrived.

Cindy suggested the subcommittee review this in more detail with the comments made by the commission members and report back to the commission again.

Summer Camps and Programs: Wendy said the summer programs are in full swing and all is going well. Staff training and orientation was held last month.

Wendy said that she was able to find an instructor for the waterfront certification course for our lifeguards. Wendy said that the Ambulance was great and let us host the course at their facility.

Wendy reviewed the several camps that are going on and said so far everything is going well.

Leeayn asked about swim lessons and the low enrollment. Wendy said that the numbers were from June 30 and they have gone up. Wendy said that she thinks the low enrollment is due to the holiday week and people going away.

Leeayn said that she has heard a lot of negative comments regarding Sunrise and asked if there is anything we can do as a commission to promote the pond. Wendy said that the Conservation Commission treats the pond once the algae starts and it clears up within 24 hours. Mike said that they have the same problem with the pond in Manchester, same comments but lots of people go there. Wendy said that there are a lot of people at the pond swimming. Wendy suggested that when you hear a negative comment try and nip it in the bud and let them know that it is treated and a nice facility. The commission discussed the pond and Wendy said that we have a new raft.

Vending Carts at Parks: No public input.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gerry said that the event at Babbs for the holiday was very successful. Gerry said that there is a covered stage with power at the site. The stage is being made available to bands on the weekend to try and keep Babbs in the public's mind. Gerry invited the commission to Babbs on August 8 for a concert.

The commission discussed using Babbs for the summer Concerts on the Green and Gerry said he would like to see Parks & Recreation use the facility for programs next year.

Election of Officer: Lou said that Jane was vice-chairman and she has resigned so the position is open. Leeayn asked for clarification of what the vice-chairman does. Lou reviewed the position. Lou asked if anyone was interested. Lou asked if an alternate could hold the position and Wendy said that she did not think so but she would check. The election will be tabled until the next meeting.

Brian made a motion to adjourn and Cindy seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeayn Burke, Clerk