

**Town of Auburn
Parks and Recreation Commission
September 8, 2014**

In attendance were: Mr. Tim Therrien chairman, Mrs. Lisa Canavan, commissioner, Mr. Dave Nye, alternate commissioner, Ms. Margie McEvoy, alternate commissioner, Mr. Pat Kelly, alternate commissioner, and Mr. Mike Dobmier, facilities representative. Ms. Maureen Juliano, concert series organizer, Mr. Brian McDevitt, Auburn Recreational Basketball Program, Ms. Stacey Shula, AMC representative, Mr. Chris Webster, YMCA representative and Audrey Trickett, Auburn resident, were also present. Mrs. Helen Hiltz was recording the minutes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Tim Therrien.

November 8th Coffee House Concert

Ms. Juliano asked if the band could set up the night before the concert. Mr. Therrien doubted if that would be possible since basketball is scheduled the day of the concert. He or Mrs. Hiltz will confirm the earliest possible time for set up and get back to Ms. Juliano.

The P&R Committee also discussed the original plan to have the PTA sell refreshments at the event. Ms. McEvoy noted that while it would be a win/win situation for both the PTA and the Parks and Recreation department, this would be going against the decision that the Parks and Recreation Committee made to only allow fundraising activities at the Memorial Day Bazaar. After discussing the pros and cons of allowing the PTA to provide refreshments, the Committee made the decision that it would stand by its original decision to only allow fund raising activities at the Memorial Day Bazaar. The refreshments will be provided by donations and P&R funds.

Winter Carnival/Burning of the Trees

The Parks and Recreation Committee decided on a January 24th date for the Winter Carnival. The event will be scheduled from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Mr. Therrien confirmed that the Auburn Fire Department will be working with us that day, manning the fire and cooking the hot dogs. The P&R will be supplying the food. Donations will be sought. It was determined that the event would be kept simply and very similar to last year. We will be asking the community to drop off their Christmas trees at the Safety Complex. The fire will be supplemented by brush that will be cut this fall at the parks. Mr. Dobmier will insure that the brush is brought to the appropriate area. Mrs. Hiltz will ask Mr. Dross if his crew can support the event again this year by mounding a sliding hill, etc. Mrs. Hiltz will also ask Ms. Dee Cleary if she would like to continue the tradition of running the snow shoe race. The Committee was reminded that there was some concern about providing a sweeper and a smaller loop for children. A flyer for the event will be submitted for review at the school and articles submitted for the Village Crier.

Auburn Recreational Basketball Program – Mr. Brian McDermitt

Mr. Brian McDermitt made the Committee aware of the fact that he has taken over facilitation of the Auburn Recreational Basketball Program from Mr. John Dolan. Mr. McDermitt had originally asked the Board of Selectmen if the town could put a link on the P&R website. The board denied the request because it would be a link to a Facebook page. The Basketball Program is working on a website. Ms. Hiltz noted that a flyer or some other notification could be placed on the website. Mr. Webster noted that that has been very effective at providing

communication about the sports programs. Ms. Hiltz will also work with Mr. McDermitt to provide information about the league, contact, info etc. Mr. Pat Kelly stated that it would be good to provide links to all of the sports leagues, etc. Ms. Hiltz noted that links can be requested and put under the community links section.

Sprinkler System at Wayne Eddows

Mr. Tim Therrien gave an update on the sprinkler system at Wayne Eddows. The system has been fixed, new sprinkler heads installed, etc. The system is up and running. The project went over the original budget of \$2,000 by \$200.00. The P&R budget contributed \$1469.00 to the budget. The balance was contributed by the Auburn Soccer Club. The remaining funds in that line item will be to pay for welding of the goal posts and new nets.

Ant Treatment

The Board of Selectmen voted to appropriate \$535.00 to the ant treatment. The treatment was applied to Wayne Eddows Field. Mr. Webster stated that the treatment was successful in controlling the amount of ants on the field. Ant treatments need to be included in the budget. Mr. Jim Headd will ask the Board of Selectmen if it should be included in the landscaping budget or the Parks and Recreation budget.

Mr. Therrien noted that it would now be critical to keep the fields up with fertilizer, etc. Mr. Webster donated his aerator to the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Kelly noted that new corner markers were installed. Mr. Dobmier noted that the wasp nests have been taken care of.

Request for a memorial bench at Circle of Fun Playground

Mrs. Hiltz provided drawings and a proposal for two styles of granite benches (rectangular and curved) to be considered for memorial dedications at Circle of Fun Playground. The proposals are from Star Granite who has provided other benches at Circle of Fun and the MIA bench at the Veteran's Park. The cost of the benches would be incurred by people requesting the benches. The Parks and Recreation Department will facilitate the purchasing and installation. Mrs. Hiltz will insure that the quotes include proper anchoring.

Mr. Alex Eisman made a motion to accept the proposal for the two styles of benches submitted. Mrs. Canavan 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Lighting of the flag pole at Bi-Centennial Park

Mrs. Lisa Canavan noted that the solar lights that her company purchased for flag poles did not work well. It was decided that the committee would discuss this topic further when Mr. Lufkin could attend the meeting and discuss his results.

GPS soccer camp – 8/4 to 8/8

Mr. Therrien stated that he has asked Mr. D'amelio to attend the next meeting to discuss the GPS soccer camp. The agenda was too full for tonight's meeting.

2014 Budget

Mr. Therrien reviewed the 2014 budget. All projects will be completed. An event tent and a PA system still need to be purchased. The skating rink still needs to be sealed. The dugouts still need to be raised.

If, there are no unanticipated expenses, there will only be \$1,200 left over.

Mr. Therrien noted that Mr. Armand Miclette will be out on medical leave for 8-12 weeks. Because of this medical leave, the last senior trip will be cancelled. Chairman Therrien stated that the funds for the last event will be turned back at year end and an explanation will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee during the budgeting process. Mrs. Hiltz will be doing "ride alongs" in the spring of 2015 to learn the process of running a senior trip. This will provide a back up to Mr. Miclette.

Ms. McEvoy purchased 4 tables and 32 chairs.

2015 Budget/Projects

Fireworks

Circle of Fun

Purchase new section of fence/fix old fence
Top gravel and regrade parking lots
Walking paths
New flag pole
Gazebo lights
Restripping of the handicap lines
Cut tree overhang
Underbrush cut
Deck on gazebo
Hot top for porta-potties to meet ADA requirements

Bi-Centennial Park

Lights for flagpoles
Regrade parking lot
Electricity - Mr. Dave Nye asked if we should consider direct boring of power under Rt. 121. He will get quote.

Safety Complex

Touch up gravel and back drag.

Skating Rink/basketball courts

It was noted that the basketball hoops are not at regulation height. A discussion ensued. It was determined that the basketball court is for recreational use and the funds to raise them would not be solicited.

Regrade the parking lot

Soccer program

Mr. Therrien stated that he has reconsidered his initial thought to not allocate any funds to the soccer program...to have the soccer program self-sufficient. He did not feel that it was fair since the fields are rented out and utilized by other organizations as well as the Auburn Soccer Club.

Wayne Eddows Auxiliary Field

Run electrical conduit
Parking lot gravel
Light bases and retention pond

Proposal to eliminate the Memorial Day Bazaar – Have an Old Homes Day Instead

Ms. Margie McEvoy made a proposal to replace the Memorial Day Bazaar with an Old Homes Day. She proposed that we look at having the event as an extension of the Annual Duck Race held in September. Mr. Therrien stated that the majority of people who attend the Memorial Day Bazaar are from out of town and he would welcome a change in venue if it would draw more people from Auburn. Ms. McEvoy noted that a lot of people are out of town or busy with family events, etc. on Memorial Day weekend. She also noted that it was getting tougher to get volunteers to assist with the event. There was much discussion as to what could be considered for the event. A parade, fireworks, vendors, etc. were discussed.

Mr. Alex Eisman made a motion to appoint an exploratory committee to determine if a change in venue would better suit the town of Auburn. Mrs. Lisa Canavan 2nd the motion. All in Favor.

Ms. Margie McEvoy, Mrs. Lisa Canavan and Mrs. Helen Hiltz will be the members of the committee. They will report their initial findings at the October P&R meeting.

Mr. Alex Eisman made a motion to accept the August meeting minutes. Mrs. Lisa Canavan 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Alex Eisman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30. Mrs. Lisa Canavan 2nd the motion. All in favor.