

UNAPPROVED

Town of Auburn Parks and Recreation Commission November 10, 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, Mr. Jim Headd, Selectman and Mr. Mike Dobmier, Facilities representative. Mr. Mike DiPietro, Highway Safety Committee Chairman and Mr. Dan Carpenter and Dee Cleary, representing the Historical Society were also present Mrs. Helen Hiltz was recording the minutes.

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

Exploratory Committee - Memorial Day Bazaar vs. Old Homes Days

Mr. Therrien explained that the Parks and Recreation committee is considering alternatives to the Memorial Day Bazaar. One suggestion is to have an old fashioned "Old Homes Day" and possibly offer a full day of fun for the community by expanding the duck race into the late afternoon and evening. The expanded activities suggested included the possibilities of having a parade, more vendors, various artists, Traveling Barnyard, clowns, fireworks etc. Mr. Mike DiPietro mentioned that there also used to be a community bon fire held that was quite popular. The exploratory committee invited Mr. Dan Carpenter and Ms. Dee Cleary to the meeting to get input from the historical society's perspective. Mr. Dan Carpenter felt that the expanded event would be too long a day for participants and drain the volunteer resources. Mr. Carpenter noted that this was the first year that the school was involved in the activities of the day and the results were very positive. Ms. Dee Cleary stated that this year's Duck Race was quite successful. She saw great potential in the direction that the Duck Race was going currently and did not see an advantage to expanding the event to the point of an "Old Homes Day". She pointed out that the goal of the Duck Race is to have a community event that is a non-profit fund raiser for all involved and not a town sponsored event. She also saw great potential in the expansion of the 5K race. Ms. Cleary did note that she had surveyed ~ 30 people to see what they wanted to see at events and a parade was a top item. Mr. Dave Nye stated that he remembers how popular the parade used to be. That is one of the reasons that the Parks and Recreation Committee is proposing the possibility of doing a parade as part of an "Old Homes Day" event. Mr. Nye stated that he was involved in organizing the parades of the past and recalls that there was a great deal of work to organizing and executing a parade. Mr. Therrien asked Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Cleary to bring the discussion to the next Historical Society meeting as he felt that there was, not only a benefit to the community but also, a greater fund raising opportunity with increased attendance. Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Cleary will have the discussion at the next Historical Society meeting. The Parks and Recreation exploratory committee will continue to investigate other options. Mr. Mike Dobmier noted that some communities have an entire week-end of activities.

Flag Pole Dedication Plaque

The flag pole that was located at the old fire house has been moved to the Circle of Fun Playground to replace the flag pole that was in need of repair. Mr. Mike DiPietro asked the Parks and Recreation Committee to consider placing the original dedication plaque in a place of

honor near the new flag pole location. Mr. Dave Nye will secure a piece of granite that the plaque can be mounted on. The stone will be placed in the vicinity of the new flag pole and a small rededication of the plaque will be done at the first concert in 2015. The plaque was given to Mr. Mike Dobmier for safe keeping.

November 8th Coffee House Concert

Mr. Therrien stated that the coffee house concert was a great success with a good turnout. Ms. Hiltz stated that AVS principal, Lori Collins and vice principle, Michel O'Rourke, were instrumental in making the setup of the event a success. Ms. Hiltz also thanked all of the entertainers who participated, the volunteers that baked items, the Long Meadow church for providing popcorn, vendors who donated gifts and Maureen Juliano for organizing our concert series. Mrs. Hiltz summarized some of the positive feedback that she had received about the event and the efforts of the Parks and Recreation Committee in general. Mr. Therrien noted that he had received some feedback that it would be nice if some adult beverages could be offered or brought to the event. Selectman Jim Headd will bring this discussion item to the Board of Selectmen for their input.

Winter Carnival/Burning of the Trees

Mrs. Hiltz has contacted the Auburn Fire Department and has confirmed that they will be working with us to make the day a success. Mr. Mike Dobmier will confirm where the brush pile will be placed. The DJ has been confirmed. Mrs. Hiltz has reached out to Ms. Dee Cleary to see if she had an interest in continuing the efforts to grow the snowshoe race. Mrs. Hiltz will contact Mr. Mike Dross to confirm that he will be able to assist with the sliding hill, etc. Mrs. Hiltz will also contact Dunkin Donuts to secure donations of coffee and donuts for the event. Mr. Therrien stated that the Auburn Little League will donate beverages, some hot dogs and hamburgers. Mr. Therrien mentioned that there have been complaints about the mats at the skating rink being a possible trip hazard. It was agreed that the mats would not be put down and people would need to utilize skate guards to protect their skates until they get to the ice.

GPS Soccer Camp – 8/4 to 8/8

Mr. D'Amelio was not available to discuss the GPS soccer camp issue.

World War I Memorial

Mrs. Hiltz has received a request to move the World War I Memorial that is currently located on the front lawn of the Town Hall across the street to the Bi-Centennial Park. The thought process is to have all of the veterans and war memorials located together in one area and on one property. Ray Racicott has indicated he is interested in donating his time and service to accomplish this undertaking, and is not seeking any funds for this effort. He indicates it is something he would like to do in the spring. If approved, hopefully it could be accomplished in time for Memorial Day 2015.

Mr. Tim Therrien made a motion to accept this proposal. Ms. Margie McEvoy 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Manchester Water Works will be contacted for approval, a site decided upon and a recommendation and picture will be supplied to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration.

2015 Budget

Mr. Therrien stated that the 2015 budget has been reduced to \$83,451. The Board of Selectmen has approved utilizing any left over 2014 Parks and Recreation funds on materials, projects, etc. originally requested for 2015. Gravel, wood chips, fencing, etc. has been purchased. The Parks and Recreation will present the 2015 budget to the Budget Committee on 11/13/2014. Mr. Dave Nye has found a source to supply class "B" fireworks for ~\$10,000. Mr. Therrien noted that we could only put \$5,000 in the 2015 budget for fireworks.

Mrs. Lisa Canavan made a motion to accept the October meeting minutes. Mr. Tim Therrien 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Mrs. Lisa Canavan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20. Mr. Tim Therrien 2nd the motion. All in favor.