

Parks and Recreation Meeting 10/12/2015

In attendance were Mr. Dave Nye, chairman, Mrs. Lisa Canavan, commissioner, Ms. Margie McEvoy, commissioner, Mr. Jim Headd, Selectman, Mr. Zach Eaton, alternate commissioner, Mr. Pat Kelly, alternate commissioner, Ms. Maureen Juliano concert coordinator, Mr. Armand Miclete and Mr. Mike Dobmier, facilities. Helen Hiltz was recording minutes.

Budget presentations:

Chairman Nye presented the budget to the Board of Selectmen and to the budget committee. The Board of Selectmen accepted the budget as presented. The budget committee cut \$9,000 from the budget as presented. \$4,000 was removed from the family events line item and \$5,000 was removed from the P&R improvement line item. The \$4,000 from family events was removed mainly because there was little support of town fireworks. The \$5,000 from the improvement line was removed because it was felt that the dug outs could be built in stages. Mrs. Paula Marzloff also indicated that the building of the dug outs may be able to be funded by the urban development project.

Coffee House:

The turnout for the coffee house was less than anticipated. It was unknown if the “Hippy Dippy” theme was not well received or if there were other events going on at the same time. The P&R Committee thanked Ms. Juliano, the AVS and the members of the Longmeadow church for all of the time and effort that was expended. The committee and Ms. Juliano determined that, since the first coffee house was a big success, we would try to put on another coffee house next year, going back to a “no theme” version.

Winter Carnival:

The winter carnival is scheduled for February 6th from 1-4 PM. The P&R will be working with the Auburn Fire Department for the event. The scouts will be offering their Christmas tree pick up service as a fund raiser again. The committee decided that Mrs. Hiltz should contact Mike Feranni, the DJ, to see if he is willing to play at next year's event. Mrs. Hiltz asked if we wanted to look at expansion of the event. Consensus was that we would keep the event simple, skating, sliding, barbecue, music. Mr. Zack Eaton suggested that we have a small snow shoe race for the kids. Mrs. Hiltz will contact the Audubon to see if they could assist with that effort.

Unanticipated field damage at Wayne Eddows:

Mr. Pat Kelly briefed the committee on a request that the Auburn Soccer Club made to the Board of Selectmen. The soccer field at Wayne Eddows has sustained unusual damage due to the drought, lack of water due to the dug well going dry, ant infestation, etc. The Soccer Club spent funds and labor earlier in the year to loam and seed the field and therefore does not have any money left. The P&R budget does not have any funds left to complete the recommended \$2,564.05 services (Alliance Landscaping) this year. Therefore, the ASC has requested assistance from the BOS since the landscaping budget is part of the general fund. It was suggested that we investigate tying the sprinkler system into the artesian well. The discussion about what should be included in future P&R budgets took place. In the past, the P&R, ASC and the YMCA all worked together to fund major improvements. This year the damage just seemed to be more than usual and showed up later in the year than usual. Anticipated increased future usage will require more ground work, seeding, etc.

The Parks and Recreation summer event –

“Summer Sizzle”? is scheduled for June 4th from 3:00 PM to end of festivities. The event will be very similar to the old Memorial Day Bazaar. It will be an “Old Home Days” atmosphere. The current plan is to have the fair type food, face painters, petting zoo, a variety of vendors, a band and end the evening with fireworks. Mrs. Canavan has a folder of activities from other towns and there are numerous suggestions on how the P&R, fire and police department could work together to make this a family event for all. It was decided that next month’s meeting would concentrate on the summer event so that we could approach other organizations for feedback as well.

Using the terminology “free” in posting of our events:

It was noted that there appears to be an objection by some to utilizing the terminology “free” in some of our advertising for town events. The thought is that “free” is inaccurate as the events are sponsored by tax dollars. The “free” connotation was originally decided upon to let people know that there is no admission fee, no fee charged for the hamburgers and hot dogs, free popcorn and prizes that were available to everyone at no charge, not raffled. The committee determined that terminology for future events would not include the “free” terminology. It will state something in the vein of “Proudly Sponsored by your Parks and Recreation Department”.

Auburn Soccer Club:

See above.

The ASC play is completed for the year.

Facilities:

The flags have been taken down and most of the picnic tables put away. The tables at Bi Centennial Park will be put away after Veterans Day.

The chemical toilets have been picked up. It was noted that the chemical toilets were disgustingly filthy this year. Several complaints have been put in to Dave's Septic. The option of having the toilets at COF and Wayne Eddows cleaned twice a week was investigated by Mrs. Hiltz. The cost quoted was an extra \$10.00 per unit per week. Mrs. Hiltz will go out for quote in the off season.

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

Mrs. Lisa Canavan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Margie McEvoy 2nd the motion. All in favor.