

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

January 6, 2009

7:03 pm

Attendance:

Robert G. Potter, Director
Joseph Schettino, Chairman
Harry Swaun, V. Chairman
Michael Sutyla

Bonnie Finkeldey
Linda Diamond
Robert Neri
Robert Karcich

Guests:

Members from the Clinton Land Conservation Trust: Sally Heffernan, Dana Skidmore, Chuck Annicelli, Gregg Mirando, Dana Whitney, Frank Byrne and Larry Ouellette. Also, John Litevich, Morgan Baseball Coach.

Minutes:

Mr. Sutyla motioned to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2008 P & R Commission meeting. Mr. Neri seconded the motion. Mrs. Finkeldey noted a spelling correction: Mrs. Finkeldey not Mr.

Vote: In Favor (Typo noted): Sutyla, Finkeldey, Diamond, Neri Karcich, Schettino

Opposed: None

Abstained: Swaun

Motion Passed.

Correspondence:

Bank Statements: FYI

Sub-Committee Reports:

Decorate Your Neighborhood for the Holidays: Lois reported that she sent letters to all participants letting them know the results of this years challenge. Mr. Sutyla had some suggestions for next year: Start sooner and to do the judging together. Mr. Sutyla motioned to disband this Sub-Committee. Mr. Karcich seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Swaun motioned to move our Guests to the next item on the agenda. Mrs. Finkeldey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

John Litevich, Morgan Baseball Coach: He is also the coach of the Clinton Hounds Baseball Team. Mr. Litevich has a few proposals for the Commission's consideration;

- a. He would like them to re-consider their policy on practice time on Premier Fields,
- b. He would like to help in the following areas; 1. Put on distance markers on the IRRC Baseball field and 2. Paint the Press Booth, Dugout (inside & out and the Foul Poles at the IRRC Baseball Field. Mr. Litevich would like to see Morgan Blue and White colors used on the IRRC baseball field. He can't afford the supplies but he his willing to volunteer the labor. He would estimate that we would need 6 gallons of paint for the dugouts and 4 gallons for the booth (10-12 or 15-18 gallons of paint). The work would be done in mid April. He wants to improve the facility. He already donated a wind screen. The Commission will discuss this at their February meeting and have an answer for him in March.

P & R Minutes 1-6-09 (continued)

The Color Scheme may be an issue. When we paint, we color coordinate with the other buildings at IRRC. (Note to place this discussion on the Feb. Agenda)

Guests from Land Conservation Trust/Open Space:

Mr. Schettino invited them here tonight because we are all working toward a common goal. He felt that it would be to everyone's benefit if we could open up a dialog to see where we might be able to help each other out to accomplish our goals. Mr. Byrne: the Town has 750 acres of Open Space, which is current held in public trust. The land Trust has been in existence for 40 years. The property on Cream Pot Road, Jessie Buell Forest, is the parcel closest to the Indian River Complex and the parcel which could be connected so the trails could be accessible from the IRRC property in the future. P & R's other 5 acre parcel, which we presently can't get to from IRRC, is accessible from Cream Pot Road. This is the land we would like to develop into a practice field. Mr. Ouellette mentioned that there still might be some possibilities at Camp Hadar, Wind Farm – He did a walk around with Fisher. We have an opportunity to get our children back in touch with our natural resources; trails, forests, woods, wildlife, etc. We need to promote passive recreation. We have 47 acres at IRRC and with a Bridge we can connect it with the 100 acres at the Jessie Buell property.

If the property we are interested in is feasible for a field, could you keep a corridor open so we can connect the 2 properties? By doing this we also access the Trails at the Buell property. Mr. Schettino: we are already on the same page because we also think along the lines of multi-use when we plan. An example would be: a Picnic area will be installed adjacent to the New Playground at Peters. We are not just about all sports.

Mr. Schettino: we have 5 acres of land that we haven't been able to do anything with that maybe the land Trust can help us out with.

Sally Heffernan handles the Land Trust's Outreach Program. Last Summer Dana Skidmore worked with Lois to put together an Ecology Camp that was very successful and they are planning on doing this again this Summer (offering two Camps). Sally would like to work together to offer some programs as well. All you need to do is contact the Office and this can be worked out. Mrs. Finkeldey motioned to make Mrs. Diamond our Liaison, with Mr. Sutyla as our alternate, to the Clinton Land Conservation Trust Outreach Program Committee. Mr. Sutyla seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Schettino will be out Liaison to the Footbridge Committee along with Mr. Byrne and Mr. Ouellette.

The Land Trust members left at 8:04 pm

Action Items:

P & R Budget 2009-10: The budget went over to the Director of Finance and we are waiting to hear from the Town Hall as to when the Director has to meet with the First Selectman and the Finance Director and when the Commission has to meet with the BOS. Mr. Swaun stated that with today's economics times we should take care of our tennis courts because people can't travel. DPW plans on taking on more responsibilities within the Town. Within CEC we may get our Study and Field Restoration.

P & R Minutes 1-6-09 (continued)

Mr. Sutyla: Eliot LL Field: We still have a Trash Barrel and a Port-a-potty at the field. Also, the light is always on at the Press Box. We believe the trash barrel is still there because water got inside and it is a frozen block of ice. Both of these contracts fall under the jurisdiction of DPW. We will check out the light. There may be a problem with the photo cell.

New Business:

Next Meeting: February 3, 2009

Election of Officers:

Chairman: Mr. Swaun nominated Mr. Schettino for Chairman of the P & R Commission. Mrs. Finkeldey seconded the nomination.

V. Chairman: Mr. Sutyla nominated Mr. Swaun for Vice Chairman of the P & R Commission. Mr. Karcich seconded the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations for either office, Mr. Sutyla motioned to close all nominations. Mr. Neri seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Schettino and Mr. Swaun were re-elected by acclamation.

P & R Goals:

Mr. Schettino asked each Commissioner to come to the meeting with 3 Goals in mind for the P & R Commission:

Mr. Schettino:

1. Inter-Agency Cooperation
2. Blow our own horn more effectively
3. Have regular meetings with Agencies that affect us the most.

Mrs. Finkeldey:

1. Would like to have Town Forum
2. Working with the BOE
3. Community Spirit

Mrs. Diamond:

1. All agencies working together
2. Reaching out to the public
3. Concise list of our facilities

Mr. Neri:

1. Work closer with other Boards & Commissions

Mr. Karcich:

1. Maintenance & Up-Keep of facilities
2. Toot our own horn more

Mr. Sutyla:

1. Have the First Selectman come to our Meetings twice a year
2. IRRC Baseball Field Project – field needs to be fixed
3. Publicize – Suggestions- Volunteers (I am willing to listen to people but they better be willing to volunteer if they have suggestions because we have limited resources)

Mr. Swaun:

1. IRRC Baseball Field: drainage problem and other IRRC drainage issues
2. Other Boards & Commissions – cooperation

P & R Minutes 1-6-09 (continued)

Director's Report:

The P & R Director gave each Commissioner a report/update on each P & R facility for the month of January 2009.

IRRC: Light pole on roadway hit by motor vehicle

Waiting for Clinton glass to install lexemen on new press booth to protect windows

Repair work on baseball back stop completed

Entrance sign in repair

Repair work on dugouts in progress

Order new dishwasher/kitchen

Infield work completed/baselines/infield/restructure

PETERS:

Work in progress on bleachers

Work completed on Lupone infield/burm removed and new sod installed

Entrance gate repaired service road

Lights turned off: BB Court, Skate Park

Concession Stands winterized

ELIOT Field:

Portable pitcher mound stored at Peters, in gray building

BEACH:

No Parking Signs, removed: undetermined

Water turned off, Concession stand & restrooms winterized

Administration:

Budget review

Basketball issue addressed

Field Maintenance contract

Meeting RE: Building & Grounds Sub-Committee, Jan. 13, 2009

The Director also reported that DEP is going to do a study on Artificial Turf so all Towns will have access to this once it has been completed.

Lois passed out a flier on a Bus Trip: Red Sox vs Atlanta Braves: June 21, 2009

Mr. Swaun motioned to adjourn. Mr. Sutyla seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Lois A. Ruggiero,
Assistant to Director