

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

October 6, 2009

7:01 p.m.

Attendance:

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

Linda Diamond
Bonnie Finkeldey
Robert Neri (absent)
Robert Karcich

Guest: Selectman Jeremiah Dunn, Major Todd Lawrie, Steve Mansfield

Minutes:

August 4, 2009: Mr. Swaun motioned to approve the minutes of the 8/4/09 P & R Commission meeting as submitted. Mrs. Finkeldey seconded the motion.

Vote: In Favor: Schettino, Swaun, Finkeldey

Opposed: None

Abstained: Sutyla, Karcich, Diamond

The motion passed.

September 8, 2009: Mr. Sutyla motioned to approve the minutes of the 9/8/09 P & R Commission meeting as submitted. Mr. Karcich seconded the motion.

Vote: In Favor: Swaun, Sutyla, Karcich, Finkeldey

Opposed: None

Abstained: Schettino, Diamond

The motion passed.

Major Todd Lawrie: Came before the Commission to give them an update on the Communication Tower. The Tower is sited to be located directly behind the P & R Building. The committee is getting two prices: one for a mono-pole which has to go down 40 feet and the other is for a three legged lattice-pole which sits on a slab. The tower is 120 feet. They require space to house their equipment and they are looking to use 8 feet of our storage closet. They also need a generator on the premises in case of a power outage. The generator will also give us back up emergency services if we ever needed it.

Major Lawrie left at 7:14 p.m.

Selectman Jeremiah Dunn, Dog Park: Mr. Dunn came before the Commission to discuss this topic because there is a perception that the BOS is dog unfriendly and that isn't the case. The Town hasn't had the money to address a Dog Park and we still don't have the money but he would like to visit this with the Commission because something might be able to done with very little money. Over the summer Mr. Schettino, Mr. Potter, Mr. Fritz and Mr. Dunn met to discuss a possible area for dogs. The Peters Complex was discussed as a possible area if it was controlled. We just got the dogs out of Peters, why would we want to allow them back in? We just did a site walk at the parcel adjacent to the Yacko property and decided it is not conducive for a Dog Park. Dogs at the Town Beach are definitely a Health hazard. Mr. Swaun: we are not anti-dog, we are anti-poop. Mr. Schettino: Dogs are animals and the health and safety are real concerns where kids are concerned. From an enforcement point of view maybe there should be a designated area. Mr. Sutyla: you won't get my support for changing an ordinance but I will support a dog park. Mr. Swaun: I would support a dog park but not in any of our present parks. Mr. Schettino: maybe licensing fees could have a surcharge for a couple of years to help support a dog park.

Mr. Potter left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

P & R Minutes 10-6-09 (continued)

Mr. Karcich: supports a dog park and if we need to change the ordinance, so be it. Mrs. Diamond: she supports a dog park. Mrs. Finkeldey: supports a dog park. Mr. Sutyla motioned to ask the Board of Selectmen to form an Ad Hoc Dog Park Search Committee with Mr. Karcich and Mrs. Finkeldey serving on it from the P & R Commission. Mr. Swaun seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Selectman Dunn left at 7:40 p.m.

Steve Mansfield (Soccer Tournament Committee): Mr. Mansfield came before the Commission to request dates for the 2010 Soccer Tournament. They had 100 teams participate in the 2009 Tournament. It was the first time they ever had to pay DPW and The Town. The bill was for \$3000 but they had a meeting to review it and it was reduced to \$2700. If they had known about the fees, they could have raised the entry fees. All the money they raise goes back into the Soccer Program and enhancements. Mr. Mansfield handed over 2 checks: one check in the amount of \$7500 for the Youth Soccer Program which the Soccer Board determines how it is spent and the other one in the amount of \$800 given to the P & R undesignated funds. Mr. Swaun motioned to accept the Check for \$7500 and have it placed in the Special Project Fund for the Youth Soccer Program. Mr. Sutyla seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mrs. Finkeldey motioned to accept the Check for \$800 and have it placed in the P & R Special Project Fund in undesignated funds to be determined by the Commission. Mrs. Diamond seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Sutyla motioned to approve the request to hold the 2010 Soccer Tournament on May 22 & 23 with set-up on May 21, 2010. Mr. Karcich seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mansfield left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Correspondence:

Bank Statements: FYI

Sub-Committee Reports:

1. Linda Diamond, Liaison, Land Conservation Trust Outreach Committee: No News.
2. Joseph Schettino, Liaison, Liaison, Footbridge Committee with Frank Byrne and Larry Ouellette: Mr. Schettino will speak Mr. Ouellette about money.
3. Linda Diamond, Liaison: P & Z Commission Planning Committee, West End of Route 1 Planning Effort: No News.

Old Business:

Action Items:

1. **Development Additional Field at IRRC – Cream Pot Road:** No News.
2. **92 Glenwood Road Property:** We have heard that a private party has express an interest in purchasing this parcel of land. We still don't know if the Town is planning on pursuing this property as some Commissioners were led to believe.
3. **Shellfish Barn – Town Beach:** No more news at this time.
4. **Town Beach Project:** The First Selectman was successful in securing a \$200,000.00 Grant for the Town of Clinton. \$100,000.00 will be going toward the new Concession/Restroom building at the Town Beach.

New Business:

Next P & R Commission Meeting: November 10, 2009 (2nd Tuesday).

Dog Park: Already discussed.

P & R Minutes 10-6-09 (continued)

Mr. Swaun: He was told, by a member of the BOF, that at the last Board of Finance meeting, it was reported that the 2008-09 P & R budget was over expended by \$26,125.00. Mr. Schettino is also upset that this was stated in a public meeting. Does anyone know what happened? Lois had an explanation: I spoke to the Director of Finance as soon as Mr. Swaun came back to our Office with this information, it isn't true. There was a clerical error in the Finance Office. They paid a bill and didn't charge it to the Purchase Order that I had encumbered so the PO# remained open. If you checked the 2008-08 P & R budget it look like we had a surplus of \$26,125.00. P & R didn't do anything wrong and we were never over expended. Mr. Sutyla motioned to authorize Mr. Schettino to write a letter to the Board of Finance for an explanation and to put correction into their minutes. Mr. Karcich seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

“Decorate You Neighborhood for the Holidays”: Most people begin to decorate after Thanksgiving. We will have Lois put the flier together and we will work off of the following timeline: Fliers to the schools by Nov. 23rd, Entry deadline: Dec. 17th by 4 pm, and Judge's votes to Lois by Dec 21st. Judging will have to take place from Dec. 18-20, 2009. Mrs. Finkeldey and Mrs. Diamond will work on an article for the Harbor News.

Mrs. Finkeldey motioned to approve the plans Decorate Your Neighborhood for the Holidays. Mr. Sutyla seconded the motion and it passed unanimously,

Mr. Swaun motioned adjourn. Mr. Karcich seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lois A. Ruggiero

Lois A. Ruggiero,
Assistant to the Director