

DRAFT
Recreation Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 16, 2014
Community Development Department, 3 North Lowell Rd, Windham NH

Chris O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Members Present: Fred Connarn, Mark Lucas, and Chris O'Neil
Also present was Recreation Coordinator Cheryl Haas and Selectmen Liaison Kathleen DiFruscia.

Members Excused: Dennis Senibaldi, Bill Fidler.

Minutes

Mark Lucas made a motion to accept the minutes of December 19, 2013, seconded by Fred Connarn; the voted carried 2-0-1; with Chris O'Neil abstaining because he was not present at the meeting.

Recreation Coordinator Updates

Cheryl Haas updated the Committee on various items.

Invoices:

*Mark Lucas made a motion to approve the \$2,900 invoice to RecDesk; seconded by Fred Connarn, the vote carried 3-0.

*Mark Lucas made a motion to approve up to \$2,500 for the deposit to RS Fireworks for the Fireworks in June; seconded by Fred Connarn, the vote carried 3-0.

*Mark Lucas made a motion to approve the Lacrosse Invoice to PhanZone, conditional upon the amount, once an invoice is received, which will be sent via email to members; seconded by Fred Connarn, the vote carried 3-0.

Mrs. DiFruscia noted that at Town Meeting this year, the voters will be asked to adopt the State Ordinance on Fireworks.

Social Media:

Ms. Haas asked the Committee their opinion on Twitter and Face book, as a way of communicating with residents. After a brief discussion, the Committee decided to put this topic on the February Agenda. In the meantime, Ms. Haas will check to see if there are any Town policies regarding this, and if other Recreation Departments have these in place. Ms. Haas did note that WCTV has a face book page, and Windham Fire has a twitter.

Scout Jamboree:

The Committee received a request from Fred Nader, on behalf of Pack 263, for a camp-out with Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts at Griffin Park or Rogers Field on April 4-6, 2014. Mr. Lucas noted he would like to see the event later in May, but

understands they don't want to conflict with sports leagues. After some discussion, Fred Connarn made a motion to support the jamboree with approval conditional based on clarifying the duration of the event; seconded by Chris O'Neil; the vote carried 2-0-1. Mark Lucas abstained due to being involved in the Scouts. Ms. Haas will write a letter to Mr. Nader requesting the information if it is a one night overnight event; or an entire weekend. She will also outline the remaining process to him. They will need approval from the Board of Selectmen for a fire on Town property, as well as being there after dusk.

Meeting with YMCA:

Ms. Haas met with the Londonderry YMCA and will be working on program collaboration with the facility, for them to come to Windham to offer some classes to residents. The idea is outdoor classes in the spring and summer. One class that will hopefully happen this spring is basketball for boys and girls ages 4-6, outdoors at Griffin Park. Ms. Haas reached out to the Windham Basketball League and they do not have any issues with the program.

Old Business

Spruce Pond/Deliberative Session:

The Deliberative Session for the Town Budget and Warrant Articles is Saturday, February 8, 2014 at 9 am at Windham High School. It was suggested that there be some visuals for the residents to view. Mrs. DiFruscia mentioned that it will be explained at the Deliberative about the bonding process and spreading out the cost of the project. It was decided that Ms. Haas would follow up with Recreation Committee member Dennis Senibaldi and ideas would be suggested via email due to the timing.

Skate Party:

The Committee briefly discussed the Skating Party that they are looking to host at Griffin Park on the pond. A sub-committee, with Cheryl Haas, Mark Lucas, and Fred Connarn will be formed to plan the event.

Impact Fees:

The Committee received an email from Community Development Director Laura Scott regarding Impact Fees. This will be on the February agenda. The Committee needs more information, more background, and more time to research.

New Business

Workshop with Cobbetts Pond Improvement Association (CPIA)

Mr. Greg Reneers, who is on the Board of Directors for CPIA, and Mr. Eric Meyer, CPIA President, were present from CPIA. Mrs. Kathleen DiFruscia has excused herself as Selectmen Liaison, and was acting as a member and legal advisor of CPIA.

Mr. Reneers and Mr. Meyer explained how Cobbetts Pond is on the EPA's impaired water list. CPIA has spent more than \$20,000 in the years 2012-2013 to treat milfoil.

There are new species that are invading the pond as well – Asian Clams and the Chinese Mystery Snail. From what they can tell, it is most likely from the boats that are causing the invasion. If a boat is on another body of water, and the owner does not clean the boat before entering Cobbetts Pond, the species can be brought into the pond. They informed the Committee that in addition to the public launch at the Town Beach, there are approximately 20 other launches on the pond –either on private property or in one of the Associations.

The Pond is 3 miles long, and is a state owned body of water. There is an area in the middle of the pond that is a ‘no wake zone.’ CPIA stocks the pond each year with fish. The current boat launch policy, and fishing key policy, has been in existence for many years.

CPIA opens/closes the gate at the Town Beach for those Pond Residents who need to launch their boat in the spring, and take it out in the fall. In fact, Mr. Reneers walks around the boats to inspect them before they go into the pond. The Marine Patrol also use the gate at the Town Beach to access the pond, as well as Fisherman can obtain a key from the Town Clerk’s Office for a fee. CPIA works closely with the lifeguards and Recreation Department during the busy summer months.

It was explained that the Village District – with the Cobbetts Pond Watershed – involves those who live in that area are taxed to raise funds that get used for the Pond.

CPIA has been a part of VLAP (Volunteer Lake Assessment Program), which tracks how the water has deteriorated, over the past several years. They were also a part of the watershed process, which is now a Town Ordinance.

Mark Lucas noted that as a member of the Committee, he represents all people in Windham. He spends a great deal of time at the beach, and he sees many boats speeding by. He inquired about the EPA impairment issue, because he looked at the EPA site and saw different reasons cited. Mr. Reneers noted that the Route 93 project had a major impact on the pond, and there was a water event which flooded into Cobbetts Pond. He explained that there are many contributors to the impairment of the pond. CPIA has put money into catch basins as well as rain gardens. CPIA is trying to control the problem.

There are many who enjoy the pond with kayaks, paddle boards, and canoes. This might be something for the Committee to look at with the size of these boats increasing.

Fred Connarn inquired if any of the associations on the pond have given CPIA any feedback. Mr. Reneers noted that they have been very respectful and appreciative of the education that CPIA is providing.

Mr. O’Neil noted that residents can launch a boat on Canobie Lake, but cannot swim. To the knowledge of those at the meeting, there are no restrictions.

After much discussion, the Committee was hoping that any resident with feedback would contact them. It was reminded that residents can appeal the rules by coming to the Recreation Committee.

In closing, Greg Reneers noted that the established rules have worked well over the years, and CPIA hopes to continue down the same path and keep the current rules.

Other:

Ms. Haas will post on the Town website the Recreation Committee vacancies.

Ms. DiFruscia noted that she is not seeking re-election as Selectmen, and she enjoyed working with the Recreation Committee and she thanked the Committee.

Ms. Haas will follow up with Jack McCartney, Highway Agent regarding installing the speed bumps at Griffin Park in early spring, weather permitting.

The next meeting is February 20, 2014.

Adjourn

Fred Connarn made a motion to adjourn at 9 pm, seconded by Mark Lucas, the vote carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cheryl Haas
Recreation Coordinator