

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**October 6, 2015**  
MINUTES

**Call to Order**

6:00pm: Chairman Shute called the meeting to order

**Present:** Jeff Shute, Chairman; Julie DeCosta, Ken Heckman, Amy Harrington, Jack Hutchinson, and Melissa Robertson Members

**Excused:** Brian Layton and Ernie Robert Members

**Also Present:** Joe Manzi, Parks & Recreation Director

**Minutes of September 2015**

**Motion:** M. Robertson moves the minutes as written

**Second:** J. DeCosta

**Vote to approve: Yea 5\*, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

*\*Member Ken Heckman was not present at the time of this vote*

**Citizens Comments**

None

**School Use of the Parks & Recreation Van**

Chairman Shute explained that members of the DCS had gone before the Board of Selectmen to discuss use of the Parks & Recreation Van for its Magnet Groups. Use by the school would require that the van be registered as a School Bus and that any drivers be appropriately certified. The Board of Selectmen is looking for an official recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Department and/or Commission. J. Manzi voiced his preference to keep the Department's resources reserved for use by the Department. Members agreed that it is important to maintain and protect the Department's investment (the Van) as best it can. The vehicle has a limited lifetime and was purchased and is maintained by Parks and Recreation funds, as such the Commission recommends that it not be used outside of the Parks and Recreation Programs.

**Hartford Brook Field Updates**

J. Manzi reported that he and J. DeCosta will be meeting with Bob Averill Thursday night at the field to assess the area and to start the conversation about how best to approach the project.

**Youth Sports Updates**

J. Manzi updated that the Youth Soccer program is going very well. There was one instance of struggle with an overzealous sideline participant, but by reinforcing the mission and intent of the program it has been resolved. Basketball signups are out. J. Manzi described that the Department wants to reinforce the purpose of the program and that it is not to bring the Parks & Recreation Program to a level on par with some of the more "elite" travel programs. The Commission agreed that it is important to keep the Recreation and Travel Team Basketball Teams as separate and distinct, but to also keep the Travel expectations in check and appropriately focused as both Teams fall under Parks & Recreation.

Chairman Shute shared that he received some extremely positive feedback at the Fair about the Youth Soccer programs.

**Other Programs - Tailgate Trick or Treat**

The Deerfield Fair Association has sent a check for its sponsorship of the Old Home Day Fireworks, J. Manzi voiced his "Thank you". Tailgate Trick or Treat will be held at the Fairgrounds on Sunday, October 25th. Members M.

Robertson, A. Harrington, J. Shute and potentially B. Layton will be available to assist with parking and judging and will plan to arrive at roughly 10:30a. J. Manzi asked if they could again have access to an electrical source for the Hot Dog sales and J. Hutchinson confirmed that it would be taken care of. J. Hutchinson asked whether it would be an opportunity for 250th Anniversary Celebration sales and J. Manzi confirmed yes.

It was suggested that the Police Department could once again assist with keeping late arriving traffic out of the Parade/Trick or Treating area once the event has begun.

#### **After School Club House**

J. Mani updated that the After School Program is running very well with 100 participants. The walls at the GBW Building have begun to be torn down as part of planned building improvements. The Program will adjust to avoid the Construction Areas without issue.

#### **Veterans Day**

J. Manzi reminded that there will be a Veteran's Day program put on by the Department November 11th at 11a at the Town Hall. Traditionally the event has included a speaker, some Boy Scout involvement and is generally informal. The Program has purchased a new DVD on the history of Veteran's Day and may do a separate showing of the film.

#### **Bicentennial Field Update**

The work done by the Girl Scouts at Bicentennial Field is complete, everyone is very pleased with what was accomplished. J. Manzi will plan to ask Bob Averill for a recommendation regarding how best to fertilize the field for the Fall. The area has been draining well, even with recent heavy rains. J. Manzi was approached by a parent recently regarding the parking lot. He has asked that the Road Agent take a look to consider grading and will bring it before the Board of Selectmen again. E. Robert has been working on an issue with the hot water tank leaking and they are doing work to fix the overhead door of the equipment shed so that it closes properly. Cutting of the slopes on the Softball field is a potential end of season project, Chairman Shute suggested it may be a good Eagle Scout or Coe Brown Senior project.

#### **Town Media Updates**

J. Manzi expressed that it is becoming more difficult to get the word out on the Department's Programs as Mr. Mikes no longer permits the posting of flyers, the DCS Bridge has restricted publication to a digital link/URL, and the Communicator is no longer in circulation. He will be relying on the use of Social Media (Facebook) more and encourages everyone to share the posts in order to spread the work. Chairman Shute spoke that a community member involved with NH Listens, a group that helps communities communicate and get the word out effectively, will be coming before Board of Selectmen and may be an additional resource to address this challenge.

#### **Other Business**

J. Hutchinson reported that the 250th Anniversary Committee brought in some \$18,000 during the Fair, selling approximately 70% of its inventory. The Ad Books were almost sold out with some 20 remaining in inventory, the plan is to have subsequent editions. Plans are developing for a Corn Hole Tournament to be held at the Fairgrounds in July. Support of the Deerfield Fair Association couldn't be better. The group is looking for ideas and suggestions for Children's entertainment during the celebration.

#### **Citizens Comments Continued**

Troi Hopkins asked that the Commission keep the door open during its meetings as it is illegal to have it closed. The Commission explained that the nightly cleaning crew had been vacuuming the hallway making it difficult to hear what was being said.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** E. Robert moves to adjourn the meeting of September 2015

**Second:** J. Hutchinson

**All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourns at 7:03p**

**Next Meeting Tuesday, November 3rd @ 6:00pm**

*The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.*

*Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission*