

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
February 2, 2015
MINUTES

Call to Order

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

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

Excused: Brian Layton Member

Also Present: Joe Manzi, Parks & Recreation Director

Minutes of January 2015

Motion: J. Hutchinson moves the minutes as written

Second: E. Robert

Discussion: J. Hutchinson asked that page 1, be amended to read that he was “surprised” at the November meeting, as opposed to “insulted”.

Vote to approve: Yea 7, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

250th Anniversary Update

E. Robert reported that the January 9th event was a big success and thanked everyone who was able to help and/or attend. J. Hutchinson asked that the Commission work on firming up plans for Children’s and/or Adult Activities for the main celebration in July. The next Anniversary related event will be April 16th following the Town Wide Clean Up (9a-11a) and Chili and Chowder Festival. The judging of the beard growing contest will take place along with the excavation of the Town Hall In-House/Out-House. Denise Greig and Karen Leavitt are coordinating the Chili and Chowder portion of the day. K. Heckman noted that the 8th Grade Metal Drive will also be that day in the parking lot across from the George B. White Building and asked that the activities be incorporated however possible.

J. Hutchinson spoke that he has made several wooden muskets for drill activities for kids and that the Corn Hole Tournament is set with 11 boards available for use from AMI. The group is looking for other kids and adult planned activities to round out the weekend.

Deerfield Bulldogs - Joe Brown & Dave Qualey

Dave Qualey reported that the Deerfield Bulldogs had a successful first season. Practices were held at the Fairgrounds parking lot and the full game schedule was made up of away games. The other Towns within the league have been very accommodating, but the group would like to ask to have its 2016 Home Games at Hartford Brook with practices continuing on at the Fairgrounds. Based on last year home games would include 3 teams with 4 home games each and are typically held on Saturday afternoon or Sunday. J. Manzi asked about the dimensions of the field or other needs, the Bulldogs responded that that there would be no permanent structures required, a few of the fields used in the league are soccer fields. Lines wouldn’t necessarily need to be fully painted at the 5 and 10 yard marks, but could be hash marks along the perimeter, the younger teams fields run 80 yards in length, but it was stressed the league is happy to work with teams and space availability.

D. Qualey noted that, should field condition become a concern, they would be agreeable to moving games back to an away location at any time. The group agreed that, if the turf doesn’t take as expected that the away schedule would be plan B. J. DeCosta asked how the team handles inclement weather, the Bulldogs agreed that they would leave it up to J. Manzi and Parks & Recreation to make the determination of when to close the fields. It was asked what percentage of the roster was made up of Deerfield kids, the Bulldogs answered that last year it was

approximately half. E. Robert asked about the cleats used for football, D. Qualey answered that they are the same as a soccer cleat, but with an additional toe piece. J. Manzi confirmed that both soccer and football are comparable in terms of field wear and tear.

The Bulldogs confirmed that they will be happy to participate in fundraising and other support efforts of the fields. J. Manzi agreed that the sharing of space seems manageable so long as the Bulldogs maintain a flexibility to the unknown. It was noted that progress at the field may depend on the passage of the Warrant Article for additional funds. K. Heckman asked about a team point of contact to communicate field work/volunteer opportunities to be done. J. Brown confirmed that J. Manzi has the team's email and that they have a group of engaged and enthusiastic families. The team will circle back with the Commission in April once everyone has a better handle on where the field project stands.

In closing J. Manzi mentioned that the Department is working on getting a wrestling program up and running and that some of the Bulldogs may have an interest in participating in the off season. Additionally, J. Hutchinson suggested the team put together a float for exposure during the 250th Anniversary parade.

Hartford Brook Update

J. Hutchinson updated that the building permit was received last Monday and construction began yesterday, he will be checking in on the progress as it goes along. The septic permit is in place and there is some clearing in the area that will need to be done. He asked who would be handling the hydro seeding of the field once Dave Drapeau has completed the raking. He asked that the Commission pull together a plan with the punchlist of items still to be addressed. Chairman Shute suggested the group wait until after the March 8th election to properly plan and address funding needs.

Deerfield 250th Anniversary Celebration Cont.

J. Hutchinson asked if more baseball games might be coordinated during the weekend of the 250th celebration. Ideas brainstormed included evens vs. odds, DCS Alumni, Deerfield Babe Ruth Alumni, and Fire vs. Police. E. Robert reminded the Commission of its slot to perform in the Variety Show.

Hoop Classic Update

J. Manzi confirmed that the 8th Grade class will be running the concessions for the Hoop Classic, he does need commitment from volunteers to man the door. The tournament will run March 18th - 31st with no games to be played on Easter Sunday. One volunteer is sought for each week night shift (4:30p - 7:30p +/-) and two to three volunteers would be preferable during the weekend (7:30a - 7:30p +/-). Team entries are still coming in, but there are more than 30 teams registered to date.

Other Program Updates

J. Manzi reported that the Deerfield Jam was a great success with another planned for the First Sunday in March. Increased audience attendance was encouraged. J. DeCosta confirmed that the next Coffee House will be in the Fall, she will confirm the date and communicate back to the Commission.

Adjournment

Motion: K. Heckman moves to adjourn the meeting of February 2016

Second: M. Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourned at 7:05p

Next Meeting Tuesday, March 1st @ 6:00pm

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

Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission