

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman John Fontana called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman John Fontana, Commissioners David Kanute and Joseph LaPorte; Director of Recreation William J. Masci and Superintendent of Parks Richard L. Egidio, Sr.

Excused: Commissioners Megan O. Maruzo and Joanne D. Palmieri

MINUTES:

Commissioner Kanute made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaPorte, to accept the Minutes of the January 7, 2009 meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS: None

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS:

1. Communication to John Barry re: Drive In Property. This was a letter to the Council Chairman from Commissioner LaPorte stating the board's intentions with regard to the development of the property.
2. Letter to Pralines re: MOTG Vendors. This letter was sent to Mr. John Slesinski following his visit last month. Mr. Masci has not heard anything back from him.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None.

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT:

Mr. Masci noted that he and Mr. Egidio may be going to a Munis class again. It will probably be helpful for the purchase order process. Trips. The three Red Sox games announced only three weeks ago are almost sold out. The rest of the trips are going well.

Music on the Green. Letters are out to all the sponsors. We will need to get the usual approvals from the Parking Authority. There is a whole new board; hopefully there won't be a problem. The first thing we would want is use of the parking lot. Also, last year we moved the handicap spaces in order to have clear access to power for the storage trailer and stage. Hopefully we will receive approval again. The Parking Authority meets this Thursday. Bands have been calling to play. Mr. Masci refers them to Jerry Limmer. There is a new procedure possible to cut down a little bit. Mr. Masci suggested that if it rains on the Wednesday, the concert would be held on Thursday. But if Thursday is also bad weather, that particular concert would be canceled rather than try to rebook to a Sunday or other day. Crowds have been smaller on the rebooked dates and it would cut down on the overtime costs. This was agreeable to the board.

Kids Entertainment Series. Mr. Masci asked the board if they wished to continue the Winter Series; there would only be two or three, last one in April. No one had a problem with it as long as it did not go past April. Kayak Rentals. A new Request for Proposals (RFP) will be done. Mr. Masci asked if the board preferred to receive the town's payment each month or at the end of the program. Since the amount is relatively small, commissioners felt that the end of the rental program would be fine, so long as it does not drag out like last year. After discussion, it was the consensus to state in the RFP that payment would be expected two weeks after the conclusion of the program. Softball will be starting the website; Mr. Masci spoke with Prozzo. The old website was discontinued. Fred Cox of the BOE sent a letter about starting a new system for using school gyms. Anyone except us using them for

Organized Recreation will have to fill out a form as to who to send the bills to. This would include such groups as soccer, Little League baseball, etc. We would sponsor them just for the sake of waiving the rental fee (\$250 a day) but they would be responsible for custodial charges, etc.

Rails to Trails Phase II. Mr. Masci attended the public information meeting yesterday. He handed out the agenda and project information prepared by the project engineer, Milone & MacBroom, including a map showing the four stages of the project. Representatives from the State Department of Transportation were there and of course Tony Tranquillo and the design representatives. Mr. Masci said he asked a question on behalf of Mr. Egidio regarding the poles. The current trail has sleeves that the poles fit into but when you remove the poles to maintain the trail, the sleeves stick up. He asked if there was another way of placing the poles to make it smooth. There are other ways and his suggestion was noted. Planking will be placed on the existing bridges. One bridge will have to be rebuilt. They talked about the Old Milldale Train Station; question arose if the Parks & Rec Department could take it over. They want to put parking there and a rest station. Mr. Egidio stated that this question came up before. The property is owned by two attorneys. Mr. Masci announced that the project is second in line for the economic stimulus program. If the plans are in by June 1st we could get the money and start in October. One person in the audience asked about not clearing the snow in winter and leaving it for cross-country skiing. Tom Sheil of Milone & MacBroom said he would come to a Park Board meeting if we wished.

Meetings with the Town Manager every Monday are going very well. Mr. Masci believes Mr. Weichsel has a better feel for what he and Mr. Egidio do and is receptive. Budget. The new Munis budget requests do not show all the details that are included in each account. The old budget sheets gave all that information but now many items are lumped into one account line. The budget was submitted to the Town Manager and he is in the process of reviewing all the budgets. Once he has had a chance to review ours, he will have a meeting with us and one or two commissioners.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kanute, seconded by Commissioner LaPorte, to accept the report of the Director of Recreation. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner LaPorte asked some questions regarding the timesheets. He and Commissioner Kanute were not familiar with some of the names of the part timers listed and asked Mr. Masci to report on who they are and what their duties are. Also there were questions and comments regarding the pay rates for the various part time helpers. There was much discussion regarding the Event Coordinator and how he is paid. There was disagreement on the method of payment and the amount. Mr. Masci will speak with Mr. Limmer to discuss the board's comments. Chairman Fontana said if he wishes to come and speak with the board, he is welcome to do so.

Question arose on the Crescent Lake permit report whether it included archery? Mr. Masci said no. There is no charge for bow hunting; they just need to come in for a permit. Mr. Masci said he received requests from a couple of town fire fighters who live out of town. They would like to do bow hunting; is it OK with the board? This was agreeable.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS REPORT:

Mr. Egidio reported that last week's payroll had nine people with overtime for three hours during the storm. He checked with Mr. Weichsel who told him that snow and leaves are priorities. While we try to keep overtime to a minimum, Mr. Egidio had approval to use his discretion. Mr. Egidio was told not to come in to supervise; he has a foreman and a phone. In response to a question, the foreman is still out. He used up his vacation time. He may begin using sick time but would need to submit a doctor's note after three days. Mr. Egidio spoke with him on the phone and will follow up with a

certified letter. In the meantime, the acting foreman works very well with the crew; there is a lot of camaraderie. Mr. Egidio said the department is cutting and chipping open space on Darling Street. Snow in front of Town Hall and Academy Street was picked up because of the handicapped entrance. Starting to trim the downtown trees; there are 60 of them. Needs to talk with Tony Tranquillo about moving a couple of trees and replacing one.

Motion made by Commissioner LaPorte, seconded by Commissioner Kanute, to accept the report of the Superintendent of Parks. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF PARKS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Drive In Theater Property. There are two piles of contaminated soil left; two have been removed. Question arose whether the contractor for the treatment plant could help grade the area once the rest of the soil is removed. Mr. Egidio said he would work with us to give us some soil but he is not sure how much. There was some discussion about the Council's public hearing on the property. They want us to put a field in. Tony Tranquillo told Mr. Egidio that as soon as the piles of soil are removed he would work with us. He already has some maps. Would need to do some grading. The demolition of the concession stand must be done. Perhaps can get a quote from Nickerson while he is there. Mr. Egidio handed out a quote for the pavilion – about \$77,000 delivered for a 60' x 105' pavilion. Concrete work may be \$25,000 for the slab and 4 ft. foundation. Commissioner LaPorte said he would contact a few service clubs and foundations to see about getting some money for the community pavilion. Discussion followed on the need for rest rooms and where they might be placed; also storage facilities and a kitchen area. Mr. Egidio said there is city gas near South End School to the treatment plant and by both entrances. Everyone would like to get the concession stand taken down in early spring.
2. Crescent Lake. Commissioner Kanute asked about replacing the gate; how much would it cost? Mr. Egidio said about \$1,000. He would like to get one that you push and it slides on rollers.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Budget. As Mr. Masci stated earlier, when Mr. Weichsel is ready to discuss our budget, he will call and schedule a meeting.
2. Scheduling book. Chairman asked how difficult it would be to have a book with tabs for each of the schools where we have programs. For example, you could go to the tab of, say, Derynoski School and see that this or that program is scheduled for a certain day and time in the month. Mr. Masci said he has a similar book but could easily do it this way. He would take care of it. Chairman said that Dr. Erardi wanted to see the dates where there was a problem with two functions at the same time. Once he knows the dates he could take care of it. There should be no problem. Mr. Masci will get the dates in question.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Commissioner Kanute, seconded by Commissioner LaPorte, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli
Recording Secretary