

Approved 1/9/07
HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 26, 2006

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm.

Attendance: Chris McDonald, Huck House and Bob White. Larry Forrest arrived at 7:12pm. Also in attendance were Mike Cronin and Tom Brennan.

Minutes: The minutes from December 12, 2006 were read. Huck made a motion to accept the minutes from December 12, 2006 as read. Bob seconded. All in favor and so voted. 3-0

Bills: None

Spring 2007 Soccer: There was some discussion regarding the girls U10 and U11 age groups. The two age groups will be combined to form one team of 18 players. There are currently 3 more players on the waiting list. Mike Cronin will call all of the U10 girls to let the families know that they will be playing up with the U11 girls. If they choose not to play, they are entitled to a refund until the rosters are set. There are openings on the boys U12 team. Any U11 girl may move over to that team if they choose. One girl has been playing with the boys' team for a couple of seasons.

Budget: Larry spoke to a roofer about the leak in the RAH building roof. He will send the roofer the photos that Mark took and the dimensions to try and get a ballpark figure on repairs or replacement. Deb contacted two roofers. One did not return the call and the other is not interested.

Lacrosse: Tom Brennan would like to hold a free girls lacrosse clinic in Hampden to generate interest in the sport. The equipment will be provided. He would like to hold the clinic one day in February for two hours in the TWB gym. Larry is willing to give up his Thursday evenings basketball practice time in order to fit the clinic in to the gym schedule. Tom will pick a Thursday date and let Larry know. The clinic will be open to girls from Hampden and Wilbraham in grades 3-8. Registrations for the Youth Association for Lacrosse will be in February and will go through the Wilbraham Recreation Department. Lacrosse is a spring sport played at Spec Pond where there are currently two fields and another one to be built. They play approximately twelve games per season and two all day tournaments.

Spray Park: The Board had a lot of discussion on the opening of the Spray Park. A lot of concern was directed to the protection of the park from vandalism. Different ideas and suggestions were discussed. The Board felt that a separate meeting to discuss all Spray Park business would be appropriate. One suggestion of running a snack shack was brought up. Police presence and the summer camp program were also mentioned. Another suggestion was to get in touch with other towns that have spray parks and find out how they run things and take care of their parks.

Old Business: Softball - Larry wrote a letter to go to the girls who tried out for NEYSA this past fall and did not make the teams. Their registration checks will be mailed back to them with the letter. Registration for recreation softball will be held in a few months for the 2007 season.

Sport Photos – Gynn & Barrett has asked if we were interested in pictures of our basketball teams and players. Bob will get back to them to see if they can take action shots during the games and maybe a team picture before a game. Coaches and parents will be notified that this was approved by the Parks & Recreation Board.

Basketball Uniforms – Larry had some concerns about the girls' new basketball jerseys. The sleeveless jerseys have a wide underarm cut. The girls have to wear another shirt underneath their uniform. Larry would have liked to have seen the final product and had some more input before ordering.

Key List For Gym Use - The Police Department was given a list of people who are authorized to borrow the keys for the TWB and Green Meadows gyms. Only people on the list are allowed to use the keys and have to sign them out and back in again. Huck asked if any problems have arisen with the new system. None have and it seems to be working well.

New Business: Softball Clinic – The varsity softball coach has asked for available gym time to run a softball clinic on March 13th, 14th or 15th. It will be offered to Hampden and Wilbraham girls of all ages. It will be run by the high school softball players. The clinic is being held to generate interest. Larry will check with Rick Kapinos on available gym time and the basketball schedule.

Hampden/Wilbraham Softball – The Hampden/Wilbraham recreational softball league will form 1st & 2nd grade teams. The Hampden girls will stay with each other. Last season the first grade girls and boys played baseball and the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade girls played softball. Now the first grade girls will go right to softball with the second graders.

Basketball – The idea of having the Green Meadow basketball games scheduled so that there is a 15-30 minute break in between games was suggested as a way to help minimize the congestion in the gym. It gets very crowded at the beginning and end of games with other teams waiting to play. This will be mentioned to Rick as a possibility for next season.

Huck made a motion to adjourn at 9:43pm. Bob seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2007 at 7pm.