

Approved 9/11/07
HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 28, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:53pm.

Members Present: Chris McDonald, Bob White and Mark Goossens

Absent: Larry Forrest and Huck House

Also present were Kara Vicalvi and Norman Bandoski

Minutes: The minutes from the special meetings held on August 9, 2007 and August 21, 2007 were read. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes from August 9, 2007 as read. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 3-0. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes from August 21, 2007 as read. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 3-0.

Bills: Reviewed and paid.

Summer Program Overview: Kara Vicalvi, the camp director, felt that the summer program went well this year. The spray park was a great addition for the program and attendance has increased. Kara suggested extending the program another week next summer to six weeks instead of five. She also felt that most of the current staff would return next summer. Kara noted that a few times the public came into the park while the summer program was in session which made it difficult for the staff. The pavilion is used for the kids' belongings and snack and lunch time. People were coming in and leaving their belongings under the pavilion and some of the kids' items were getting mixed up and lost. Also, cigarette butts were left all over the Park and the restrooms were usually a mess in the morning when they were opened for the summer program. Chris informed Kara that we are still waiting for a ruling from Chief Farnsworth on the public being allowed in to the Park while the summer program is in session.

Lacrosse: Norman Bandoski would like to get more Hampden girls interested in the sport of lacrosse. It is offered by the Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department. The boys' teams have more Hampden participation than the girls' teams. Very few Hampden girls sign up. Norm, who coaches lacrosse, has been talking with Dave Yelle, the Minnechaug lacrosse coach. They would like to get more girls interested in the sport before they go to high school. Norm would like to use a Hampden field as a practice field for a Wilbraham lacrosse team to give the sport more exposure in Hampden. He feels that if the kids see the team practicing, they may want to play too. Wilbraham would then even the registration fee for the Hampden residents who sign up. Bob mentioned that lacrosse, being a spring sport, would be competing with the spring soccer teams for field time. We currently have eight soccer teams. Norm will talk to Brian from Wilbraham Rec. about exactly what they would be looking for as far as times and frequency of field use. Brian is also welcome to come to a meeting to discuss this further. They currently practice at Spec Pond, the high school and Wilbraham Middle School. Chris suggested holding free jamborees to let the kids try the sport out and see if they would like it. Norm will speak with Brian and Dave about setting up a jamboree session. The Board welcomes more information on the subject.

Old Business: Dependent form - The dependent form for the Gamelli family was signed and returned.

Bleachers – Deb will check with Eva on the exact CPA amounts that were contributed to Parks and Recreation. Tabled to next meeting

Summer Program Volunteers – A thank you letter will be sent out to the volunteer that helped out at the summer program this year.

New Business: Spray Park – Sue Rauscher has asked if she can make the last payment on the spray park. The Board has asked that she hold the last payment. The spray park is not working properly. It should be fixed before the payment is made.

DEP Number – Mark will look into closing out the DEP number now that the spray park project is complete.

Memorial Park Project – Sue Rauscher donated a check to the Parks Department to help pay for any expenditures directly related to the spray park. She will also be donating the balance of her account from the friends of Memorial Park to be used for spray park expenses.

FY2007 Financials – The Board reviewed the FY2007 financial sheets.

Baseball – The 12-14 boys have the opportunity to try out for the NEYSA competitive baseball league. The tryouts will be held at WNEC. The teams formed will be made up of Hampden and Wilbraham boys. An informational flyer will be sent out with the times and dates of the tryouts. Hampden boys will sign up with the Hampden Parks and Recreation Department. Bob made a motion that Mark will draft a registration form consistent with last year for the Hampden-Wilbraham NEYSA tryouts for the school's Tuesday envelope. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 3-0.

Recycling at Park – Chris will put a large barrel at the Park with a sign on it for recycling. He will be responsible for taking it to the transfer station. Mark made a motion to attempt a small scale recycling program at the Park to cut down on waste. Bob seconded. All in favor and so voted 3-0.

Mark made a motion to adjourn at 9:14pm. Bob seconded. All in favor and so voted 3-0.

Submitted by Deborah House, Clerk