

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Meeting Minutes September 9, 2008
Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm.

Members Present: Bob White, Mark Goossens and Rick Kapinos. Larry Forrest arrived at 7:37pm and Huck House at 8:05pm.

Also present: Mike Cronin and John Flynn

Minutes: The minutes from the August 26, 2008 meeting were read. Mark made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Bob seconded. All in favor 4-0.

Bills: Reviewed and paid.

Fall Soccer: Mike Cronin gave the Board an update on the fall soccer program. There will be a kindergarten group, three boys 1&2 grade teams and two girls 1&2 grade teams for the East Longmeadow League, and one team each for the girls U9, U10 and U11 for the Pioneer Valley League. We are still looking for a couple more girls and one more boy for the East Longmeadow League. The kindergarten group will be starting on September 13th at TWB. The grass at TWB has been too long to play on. Bob has cut it himself a few times with his own mower. Rick is looking into the school district's grass cutting schedule. The kick wall has not been started yet.

Basketball: Basketball signups will begin now and run through October 31st. Registration forms will be sent home through the schools. Evaluations for the 3rd & 4th grade travel teams will be on October 30th. Evaluations for the 5th/6th & 7th/8th grade travel teams will be on November 1st and again on November 3rd. The registration fee will stay the same as last year, but the travel fee will increase. Mike Cronin looked into the registration fees of other towns and noted that we are comparable. Uniforms will be needed for the 7th/8th grade.

Rick made a motion to keep the \$60 registration fee for grades 3-8 with an additional \$30 for travel teams. Bob seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Rick made a motion to amend the sports uniform agreement to read "if you or any member of your family owes any past due balances, equipment or uniforms to Parks and Recreation, you will not be eligible to participate in this or any Parks & Recreation program until full payment or restitution is made." Huck seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

There are still concerns about the condition of the TWB gym floor. Rick and Mike looked at the floor this weekend and said it looked great. They will keep on top of it to keep it in good shape for the games.

Spray Park Timer Unit: South Shore has contacted Raindrop, the manufacturer of the timer unit. The timer has not worked properly and keeps reading low battery no matter how many times the battery is changed. Raindrop is manufacturing a new timer unit under warranty. They believe the random shut downs may be tied in to the timer not working correctly. South Shore will call when the timer is ready. Raindrop did not give a timeframe.

The spray park will be shut down for the season on September 21st. Huck will contact South Shore for a winterization date. Notice of the closing will be put up in the restrooms at the Park, at the Town Hall and on

the signboard. The RAH building currently does not have room to store the fixtures when the spray park is winterized. John Flynn mentioned the possibility of using an empty trailer at the transfer station for storage.

Old Business:

Softball – Larry will get the NEYSA registration and information sheet together for approval to be sent home through the schools.

Park Bridge – The bridge is in need of repair. John will bring this issue to the Lions Club meeting to see if they are interested in repairing and stabilizing it.

Park Tractor – Dana would like to use the old tractor as a trade for a new piece of equipment. The Board has no problem with that.

New Business:

Chief Farnsworth and the Hampden Police Department will be holding an event at TWB on October 11 from 12-4pm. They will be using the back fields and parking lot for exhibits with cars, boats, helicopter and K-9. There are no soccer games scheduled due to the holiday weekend.

Warrant Articles – Larry will look into a price for a field tractor and trailer for the town ball fields. Mark will look into pricing for a thermostatic gable vent for the pump room at the Park. Bob will look into pricing for a new shed at TWB and Huck will look into pricing for a sprinkler system for the area around the spray park pad. Loam will have to be brought in and seed or sod planted.

Movie Nights – Tabled to next meeting. Rick will look into pricing for a new cooler.

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 9:45pm. Huck seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Next meetings: September 23, 2008 at **7:30pm**
October 14, 2008 at **7:30pm**

Submitted by Deborah House, Clerk

