

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Meeting Minutes January 27, 2009
Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm

Members Present: Huck House, Bob White, Mark Goossens and Rick Kapinos.

Absent: Larry Forrest

Also: Jay Ray

Bills: Reviewed and paid.

Minutes: The meeting minutes from January 13, 2009 were read. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Rick seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Meeting with Selectmen/TWB Gym Floor – The Parks & Recreation Board and the Selectmen discussed the deterioration of the TWB gym floor. The floor is over 40 years old and needs to be replaced. Along with the daily gym classes, the gym is used for the youth basketball program and adult sport teams. Baseball, soccer and softball teams also use the gym in the pre-season until the weather improves. The floor is extremely slippery and has to be wet mopped in-between all basketball games to take the sand and powder-like material off of the floor. The school custodians also work on the floor during the day for the gym classes. The Selectmen support a new floor and agree that it is in terrible condition. A warrant article will be submitted for the Town Meeting in April for a physical education facility. This is a capital issue. The Selectmen will present it at the Town Meeting. Brian Garbecki, who has a lot of experience in this area, will be getting quotes for a new floor and bleachers. The Parks & Recreation Board has requested that another test be done on the material coming up from the floor. This will be done within the next couple of days per Rick Green. The Parks & Recreation Department may not be able to run the basketball program at TWB for the 09-10 season if the floor is not replaced. All games for grades 3-8 will be away and there will be limited practices at Green Meadows which will be the only usable gym. There are currently 22 Hampden teams playing basketball.

Spring Baseball 2009: Jay Ray discussed the upcoming spring baseball season. Signups are going on now and will run through February 13th. After that date a waiting list will be started. Registration forms have gone out twice through the schools. A letter will be sent out explaining the season.

Kindergarten will be set up the same as last year: Saturday mornings at TWB at 8:30am. (soccer 9:45am)

Grades 1&2: in town, 4 teams, 12 game schedule, jamboree at end of season, pavilion cookout.

Grades 3&4: Fall evaluations were done, Eastern League. Evaluations will be held on March 21 at TWB gym to form three equal teams.

Grades 5&6: Evaluated 12 kids, 3 were injured and not evaluated, JLS B & C teams. This league schedules the umpires which is helpful.

Grades 7&8: Tri-Town League, season starts in May, evaluations will be done to divide up into 3 teams. One set of uniforms will be bought each year. Three sets of catcher's gear will be upgraded.

The eight new bleachers are built. The sides and fencing still need to be attached. Jay has people to do this. They will be moved to their locations first. Jay will look into pouring cement pads for the bleachers. A single bench is needed at Green Meadows for the players. Jay will check on pricing. Jay will recommend coaches after the signups are done. Code of Conducts and CORIs will be done.

Jay would like to name Joe Barbeau as the official assistant baseball coordinator to manage the kindergarten and grades 1&2. The Board agreed.

Summer baseball will run again this year.

A portable PA system is needed for the All Star game. A manual scoreboard was discussed along with a “Green Monster” wall in the outfield of the diamond at the Park. The wooden wall would be 80’ and approximately 15’ high. The outfield fence would be moved in to 240’. The wall would be a 78% replica of Fenway. Sponsorships could be displayed on the wall.

Jay would like to create a new diamond behind right field of the existing diamond. This would be for grades 1&2 and could free up the Green Meadow fields for other sports. He presented a draft of Park improvements which included the “Green Monster”, the new diamond, moving the outfield fence in to 240’, develop fields at Green Meadows, basketball court fencing and opening the snack bar at the Park. Jay will come back with some firm numbers. Some questions to research are:

1. Can a field be built/trees cleared at the Park?
2. Can a chain link fence be put up near the basketball court at the Park?
3. Can a fence be put up along the first base side of the diamond at TWB near the golf course?

Old Business:

Summer Program Policies – The information that we have will be revised according to Rick’s edits and emailed to the Board for review before the next meeting.

Sports Website – The Board discussed the possibility of asking the high school kids that worked on the Town website to work on the sports website.

Budgets FY 2010 – The Advisory Board has scheduled a meeting with Parks & Recreation for 2/23. They have asked all departments to prepare a second budget showing a 5% decrease.

New Business:

None

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 9:28pm. Rick seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Next meetings: February 10th & February 24th at 7pm.

Submitted by Deborah House, Clerk