

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Meeting Minutes September 8, 2009
Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Members Present: Huck House, Rick Kapinos and Martin McQuade. Bob White arrived at 7:15pm.

Absent: Mark Goossens

Also: CW Zimmer, Andrea Stolar, Jay Ray

Bills: Reviewed and signed.

Minutes: The meeting minutes from August 25th were read. Rick made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Marty seconded. All in favor 3-0.

Softball – CW Zimmer: CW Zimmer from Wilbraham Parks & Recreation came in to discuss the softball program. Registrations for NEYSA softball are going on now in Wilbraham and Hampden. The tryouts will be later in September and October. The U14 groups will tryout at Springfield College and the U12 group will be at Mile Tree School. The college players and college coaches will be evaluating the girls. WNEC will work with the U12 girls. The goal is to have 12-14 girls per team. The U10 girls will play in the NEYSA B division. Tryout dates for this group are TBD. Tryouts are done at this time of year so that they can be done outdoors. To play in the competitive NEYSA league the girls have to sign up now. Anyone signing up later will play in the Rec League.

Signups for the Rec League will be in late January for both towns. Kindergarten girls play t-ball in their own towns. The teams for grades 1 & 2 are a mix of Hampden and Wilbraham girls and play against East Longmeadow. CW will work with Andrea on scheduling so that she can eventually take over. Jay would like to get the kindergarten girls (t-ball) from both towns together so that they can make a smooth transition into first grade softball. He and CW will work together on this.

Andrea had some questions for CW:

Does Wilbraham hold clinics for softball coaches? The High School coach will hold clinics when he has time for coach training.

How are coaches chosen? Wilbraham chooses the coaches by looking at experience and if there were any past issues. If two coaches are interested in the same position, they usually work it out between themselves.

CW noted that when Hampden and Wilbraham combine to play any of the sports, it is easier if Hampden sends over teams as opposed to individual players. It is helpful to CW if information is sent over early enough so that teams can be organized in time to meet league deadlines.

Andrea received two out of three quotes requested to move in the softball fence at the Park. She also looked into pricing for sponsor advertising signs that will be put up on the fence. The price range for the signs is \$250-275 for 4 x 8 plastic-like material. The signs would come down over the winter to protect them from the weather. Jay suggested that Andrea check with Hampden Sign on their pricing. Andrea suggested charging yearly for the advertising. RAH will be meeting on September 9th. Andrea will approach them about financing the moving of the softball fence. Parks & Rec has already approved the move. RAH would only vote on funding or not. Andrea mentioned the possibility of paying RAH back with money that will be raised through advertising.

Paul Stolar bought materials this past season for the softball field. He would like to put down a baseball mix before the winter. Jay plans on doing the same for the baseball field. Jay and Paul will get together to coincide the fall field materials.

Andrea would like Hampden to have our own softball teams eventually. There was a discussion about accepting kids from other towns. Some leagues/sports do not allow this, others do. Some require waivers

from the other town stating that there is not a team for them to play on. Hampden will allow kids from other towns to play if we do not have enough Hampden kids signed up to form a team.

Parks & Rec Website: Jay has reserved the domain name hampdenrec.com for three years. He created a simple website. All sport information, registration forms, information on the summer program, Memorial Park and RAH will be available. Jay asked that the Board send him whatever they wanted to see on the site and he will add it. Some suggestions were: signboard news-“this month in Recreation”, meeting schedules, no pictures of kids, board member names, office contact numbers and email, office hours, CORI forms, codes of conduct, highlights of the Park, notice of football and lacrosse signups through Wilbraham... Under the baseball heading Jay will add the corporate sponsor names, schedules, tryout information and age group breakdowns and what they do at each age level.

Hampden-Wilbraham Times weekly article: Rick will speak to Charlie Bennett from the Times about Hampden Parks & Rec submitting a weekly article.

Old Business:

Rick inspected the two well covers at the Park. They are not in great shape and can be moved. He suggested clamping them down somehow. There are metal “loops” on each side so that some kind of a binding can be clamped on to them.

CORI Coordinator – Deb will send in paperwork to the CORI board to change the CORI coordinator.

Baseball Shed – Steve Carabetta will build the shed. The wood will be donated. We are just waiting for Joe Grant to pour the cement pad.

Big H – Marty has been working with the Art Guild on Parks & Rec’s participation in the Big H. He has a table, tent, banner and information on what we do. He has some sport jerseys to hang up and magnets with our new web address to pass out. The Big H will be held Saturday, September 19th 10-4pm with a hot dog social at the Park at 5pm and Sunday, September 20th 12-4pm.

Park Bridge – Huck will meet with Gary Weiner to look at the bridge erosion problem.

New Business:

Refund requests –

Pavilion rental – request was denied. Party was cancelled due to rain. The required 48 hour notice was not given. Will be offered any other available date in 2009.

Fall soccer – 3 requests received. One was approved due to unforeseen circumstances. Two were denied per Parks & Rec policy that states no refunds are allowed once rosters are set. The policy is on the registration form.

Fall Baseball – Rick Willis is using the Park baseball field for practices. Jay will be working on the fields soon.

Dugout Dedication – An invitation was received from the Girl Scouts for the dedication of the new softball dugouts to former softball coach, Steve Karpells on Saturday, September 12th.

Summer Program Director – Kara Vicalvi indicated that she will not be coming back as Director next summer. We will advertise and interview for a new Director.

Park Maintenance Coverage – Rick Kelly will be away 9/11-9/13. He will open the park on 9/11. His last day will be September 20th. Rick will be asked to work the day that South Shore is here to winterize.

Rick Kapinos	close park 9/11
Bob	open 9/12 & 13
Marty	close 9/12 & 13

Spray Park – Ed Poulin spent numerous hours at the spray park trying to figure out why it keeps shutting down. He eliminated different things and changed a couple of parts. He changed the ceiling fan and installed a thermostat so that the fan will automatically come on when the room reaches a certain temperature. He donated all of his labor.

The over seeding and fertilization needs to be done around the spray park. Jay will slice seed the spray park when he does the baseball fields. The spray park will close for the season on September 20th. A notice will be sent to the Hampden-Wilbraham Times to advertise this.

Old Bleachers – The old wooden bleachers by the RAH building can be cut up and thrown out.

Tractor – Highway has offered an old tractor to the Parks & Rec Dept if we are able to store it in the RAH building. There will not be enough room in the building when the spray park features are in there. We will not take the tractor.

TWB Shed – Bob reported that a snow blower, pressure washer and blower were put in the TWB shed. They were left right in front and the soccer equipment that he needs was pushed to the back. May be school equipment?

The Board commended Huck on his years of work for the Parks & Recreation Board. This was his last meeting. There will be a joint meeting with the Selectmen on September 9th to appoint two new board members.

Marty made a motion to adjourn at 10:13pm. Bob seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Next meetings: September 22nd at 7pm
October 13th at 7pm

Submitted by Deborah House, Clerk

