

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

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

Members Present: Rick Kapinos, Bob White, Martin McQuade, Jay Ray and Michael Cronin

Also Present: Connie Witt, Andrea Stolar, Jim Flaherty

Bills: Reviewed and signed.

Minutes: The regular meeting minutes from October 13th and the special meeting minutes from October 18th were read. Jay made a motion to accept both sets of minutes as read. Marty seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Skating Rink Proposal – Connie Witt suggested putting a temporary skating rink at Memorial Park. She is trying to implement new things for the Town's Open Space Plan. A skating rink would qualify per Connie. Her thought is to put it along the road that leads into the park on the right hand side. She also has been pricing temporary skating rinks on the internet. The Board reviewed the idea and came up with a few issues, one being that the Park road and parking lot would have to be plowed in order to keep the Park open for skating. The Park is normally closed and locked up during the winter months. Budget issues were another concern. Connie thought that TWB School could be another opportunity. Rick will speak to Noel about the possibility of having a skating rink on the school grounds. Costs will be looked into. Connie will check back with the Board at the next meeting and will work on funding ideas. Andrea Stolar offered to check with AIC on the cost of a skating rink that they are setting up this year.

NEYSA Softball – Jim Flaherty came in to the meeting to discuss some changes to the U14 softball teams. His daughter was notified that she was on the Hampden based U14 team which had kids on it from other towns. In the past the teams have been Hampden and Wilbraham combined. Andrea Stolar also came in and said she spoke with CW in Wilbraham and the teams are now back to the way they were in the past with Hampden and Wilbraham combined. Andrea will speak to CW about sending out a new letter to parents to explain the set up of the teams and clear up any confusion. Andrea will supply the Board with a final roster once she receives it from CW.

Andrea and Jay had a conversation about starting with the younger kids and building the softball program. Andrea gave the Board an update of what she has been working on. The softball field fence will be moved in tomorrow using crews from the Sheriff's Department. Leftover metallic paint from the baseball field can be used to touch up the softball fence if needed. There may be room for a smaller diamond once the fence is moved in. The foul poles will be moved at a later date. Sponsor signs will be put on the fence. They are for sale for \$275 the first year and \$100 every year after that. Andrea sent a letter to Coca-Cola hoping to get a donated sign with their name on it.

Vandalized Bleacher – The bleacher at the TWB basketball court was vandalized and has been removed. Rick will check with Noel to see if he wants it replaced. One can be brought over from Green Meadows School.

Hampden-Wilbraham Times – Rick Rubin spoke to Charlie Bennett about a Hampden Parks & Rec weekly or bi-weekly column in the Hampden-Wilbraham Times. Rick Kapinos will be responsible for writing up and submitting the articles.

Sport Budgets –

Baseball: Jay prepared and reviewed a budget for spring baseball. The league fees and umpire fees have been going up every year. The corporate support helps. Jay made a motion to implement the following fee increases for the 2010 season:

Tball	\$45
Green Meadow League	\$60
Eastern League	\$90
JLS League	\$120
Tri-Town League	\$120

Michael seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

Soccer:

Bob prepared and reviewed a budget for the soccer program. He recommends registration fee increases to help offset the cost of maintaining the fields. Bob made a motion to implement the following fee increases to start with the 2010 spring season.

Instructional	\$35
East Longmeadow League	\$65
Pioneer Valley League	\$80

Jay seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

Basketball:

Review at a later date.

Rick reviewed the revolving account with Andrea.

Jay suggested putting together a transitional checklist for new coordinators to familiarize them with the revolving account and their duties.

Old Business:

Review Parks & Rec accounts – The Board received updated account information including the petty cash account.

Park Bridge – Ecotec will be doing a site visit this week.

New Business:

Spray Park fertilization – Tom Boss put down a winter fertilizer in the spray park area. He donated his time and the fertilizer. He suggested a heavy crab grass killer in early spring.

Movie Night – The movie, Up will be shown on November 21st at 7pm in the auditorium.

Park Closing – The Park will be closed for the season on December 1st.

Turkey Jamboree Basketball Tournament – Wilbraham holds this tournament every year. Rick asked about bringing some of the tournament to TWB this year. It will be held the Friday, Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving. Hampden would receive a profit from the team fees and could charge admission. Rick would like to have an opening ceremony to celebrate the official opening of the new gym and invite any former players to form a line and do layups as they are introduced.

Fundraisers – Marty has been researching different fundraisers. Jay suggested a sports program for the younger kids after the basketball program has ended. They could play 1 sport/week for 6-8 weeks. Jay will put together a curriculum and supply list for the next meeting. Rick suggested doing something for the high school kids like pickup games or open gym times.

Basketball Signups – Basketball registrations have been extended for kindergarten through 2nd grade until December 1st.

CPC Meeting – Rick attended a CPC meeting recently. Minnechaug Land Trust has applied for grants to purchase property at Goat Rock which would abut the Park property. Trails would be created and marked and would meet up with the trails on the Park property.

Michael made a motion to adjourn at 9pm. Jay seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

Next meetings: November 10th at 7pm
MOVIE November 21 (set up at 6pm)
November 24th at 7pm

Submitted by Deborah House, Clerk