

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION

Meeting Minutes August 24, 2010

Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

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

Bills: Reviewed and signed.

Minutes: The meeting minutes from August 10th were read. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Jay seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Bryan Litz, CW Zimmer/Wilbraham Park & Rec – Hampden Parks & Rec would like to be able to promote and register Hampden residents for Wilbraham sports that Hampden does not offer. (ex: volleyball, track, field hockey, high school intramural soccer and basketball...) Hampden is able to utilize the school envelopes to send the registration forms home with the kids and post on the web site and signboard in town to promote the programs. Some of the Hampden facilities can be made available during the year (TWB gym and GM field). Wilbraham currently has a shortage of fields in the spring when both baseball and lacrosse teams are trying to practice due to the construction at Spec Pond and the High School.

Wilbraham currently charges \$25 extra for out of town residents to sign up for their programs. Bryan and CW will look at each sport that Hampden runs registrations for and evaluate as to whether there will be an extra charge or not. The next Wilbraham registration event will be in December for high school intramural basketball.

Youth Basketball Program: Wilbraham has no plans to go to a 10' hoop for the 3rd & 4th graders. They will stay with the 8'. The Hampden 3rd & 4th graders are not very competitive against the recreational Wilbraham teams. East Longmeadow may play in the league this year which may work out better for this age group. Hampden's basketball tryouts for CYO and Suburban will be in mid October. The status of the recreational group should be known by early November.

Softball 2011 – Signups are going on now for the NEYSA competitive softball teams. Evaluations set by Wilbraham will be on September 13, 15 and 17 at WNEC for U14 and September 28, 29 and 30 at Springfield College for U12. U10 is TBD. Andrea is looking for indoor practices this winter from Wilbraham. The gyms are busy per Bryan and CW. In the past, coaches have taken their teams to private facilities and the parents paid the fee. This worked out fairly well for the teams. Andrea asked about coach training. CW noted that they have had low attendance for this. Andrea feels that the coaches need to attend training.

NEYSA recreational for grades 1-6 will sign up in February.

Rick Kapinos reminded the Stolars that any changes to the softball field at the Park have to go through the Parks & Rec Board first. The stream is nearby and we have to be careful of it. Andrea would like to eventually be able to irrigate the field and have a bubbler over there. Right now the field has a problem with grubs. Bob has fertilized it but we have had very little rain all summer. Andrea mentioned that the field is not always cut. If Highway knows that a game is going to be played they will get the grass cut.

Softball has traditionally had low numbers. The program needs to be built up and promoted more to the younger age groups. The other coordinators will send Andrea their email lists.

Andrea has a private fall team with six Connecticut players and six Hampden-Wilbraham players. Since it is not a town team and they use a town facility, waivers have to be signed by all players and a fee for field use paid. The forms will be sent to Andrea.

Park Wells – Doug North, a plumber from Monson looked at the upper well with Ed Poulin and checked the baseball field line. He air tested the line and it is fine but the valve is split. Doug is willing to watch the winterization process of the spray park so that he can learn the system. Jeff Merigian may be interested in this too.

RAH-Dave Turcotte – Dave received some feedback and ideas from people.

- Charge for spray park use – the spray park was built with some CPA funds and donations, there is a question as to whether or not a fee can be charged.
- Charge for parking – have to hire people 7days/week 9am-8pm.
- Summer Program – 2pm end of day is hard for people who work later. May look into longer days next summer and an extra week. Problems with a longer day would be cutting into the public's use and sports team needing to access the park for practices or games.
- 2-3 year plan for Park/what can RAH save for – rebuild bridge, preventative maintenance, uniforms, mostly infrastructure. Basketball court, ice rink, fence to keep cars from parking to close to the stream.
- The Stolars wanted to paint hopscotch and four squares on the basketball court at the Park. Ok with the Board.

Dave will talk to Jay about some ideas for the website. Paying for registrations online has been discussed before. This would have to be diverted to “Paypal” or another compliant company.

Baseball – Jay will be stepping down as the baseball coordinator. He will write up a guideline and post it for people who are interested in taking over. Interviews will be held and the Board will appoint someone. Rick will put this in his weekly Times article. The Board thanked Jay for his outstanding efforts for the last four years as the Hampden Baseball Coordinator.

Registrations for the 2011 season will be in January/February. The seventh and eighth grade will have the opportunity to try out for the Wilbraham NEYSA League.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Basketball 2010-11 – Registrations will be accepted through October 16th. Suburban and CYO fees will increase to \$100 for the initial signup. Instructional fees will increase to \$55. Evaluations will be at TWB October 17-20 for travel teams in grades 3-8. The Suburban League starts December 10th and the CYO League starts a little sooner. The K-2 groups will start December 11th.

Spray Park – the spray park will close for the season at the end of the day on Sunday, September 19th. A winterization date has not been set.

Green Meadows Playground – Jay received a letter from Diane Scott regarding the installation of a playground structure that promotes math skills and physical activity with a cost of \$5500. Jay will respond to the letter.

Bridge Erosion – Bill Wilson is working on a plan.

Softball Field Flag Pole – A flag pole was donated for the softball field per Andrea. The Board has approved of the flagpole as long as there is no cost, it is installed safely and installation details are reported to the Board.

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 10:40pm. Mike seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Submitted by Deborah House, Clerk

