

Minutes
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission
April 10, 2007
Gilman Museum, 7:30pm

Members Present: Dave Cumming, William Lionetta, Melissa Wells and Peter Bolster.

Public: Kerri Symonds

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle

Call To Order

Chairman, D. Cumming, called the Meeting to order at 7:45pm.

Approval of Agenda

W. Lionetta made a motion to move the appointment with Kerri Symonds, representative from the AYBL, to discuss the storage shed at Little Fenway to the beginning of the meeting; motion was seconded by M. Wells and passed.

Approval of Minutes 1-9-07

W. Lionetta made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 9, 2007 as written. The motion was seconded by M. Wells and passed.

Public Input

Kerri Symonds explained that the AYBL is interested in replacing the equipment shed that is connected to the existing snack shack. The new shed would be 1' wider and 1' deeper than the existing shed with concrete blocks and a metal door to reduce vandalism. The material would be supplied by the AYBL. The Commission noted that approval would be needed from the Town Building Inspector and that a building permit would need to be obtained by the AYBL. Mrs. Symonds also informed the Commission that Pike Industries donated stone dust. W. Lionetta made a motion to approve the request of the AYBL considering the facility would be improved and there was no cost to the Town. The AYBL was advised to obtain the necessary building permits for their project. The motion was seconded by M. Wells and passed. The Commission advised K. Troendle to inform the Building Inspector that the PRC approved the project.

Old Business

Jones Field- Green Monster Update- The director reported that \$10,000.00 was approved by the voters to repair the fence. K. Troendle informed the Commission of comments she received that were stated by the AYBL board members at the AYBL parent meeting that were not correct about the intentions/plans of the Commission/Department. The Director stated that she believes there was a miscommunication somewhere and hoped to have these issues resolved with the AYBL board members. The Commission noted that the Department and AYBL are both serving the youth of the Town and thought it would be beneficial to have a representative from AYBL on the Commission to aid in the communication between the two agencies. The Director is working with a Fence Committee from the AYBL to repair the fence.

New Business

Touch A Truck- The Director briefed the Commission about the Touch A Truck event and noted that the Town Departments will be participating. Trucks will be on display for participants to look at and sit on. The event is geared toward children but is a family event for all ages. The date is June 30 with a rain date of July 1, 10:00am-2:00pm at Railroad Square Park. The Commission recommended contacting other agencies to bring trucks and suggested to include the Police and Fireboats.

Town Beach Parking- The Commission discussed the issue of cars/trucks and snowmobiles parking on the Town Beach and the possible damage that it could cause. The Commission noted that the beach is not a parking area and suggested that snowmobiles park in front of the wall on the ice. The Commission noted that there is no trail from the beach for the snowmobiles to drive on. P. Bolster cited concerns expressed to the Selectmen from a member of the public: (1) planes cannot access the beach; (2) bob houses cannot be loaded/unloaded; and (3) snowmobiles cannot park on the beach to patronize the local restaurant. It was stated that R. Bailey, Town Administrator, suggested blocking off the wall and beach area with fencing but still allowing access to the lake from the access road for the winter sports activities. The Commission recommended that the investment of the Alton taxpayers, the newly constructed perched beach, be protected from damage and suggested that motorized vehicles not be able to park on the beach due to possible damage to the wall and perched beach.

5K Race- K. Troendle asked the Commission in regard to advertising for the 5K Road Race in Runner's World magazine for a fee. The Commission recommended contacting the Business Association and asking if they'd like to fund the advertisement. The Commission discussed passing the program to another organization if there was an interest to generate more interest. The Department sponsors the race as a service to the running community but is not an official race company and perhaps a different organization would be able to advertise and get more runners involved.

Coaching Incident with New Durham Coach- K. Troendle reported about a negative encounter with a basketball coach from one of the New Durham teams and the decision to not play teams this coach will be coaching in soccer or basketball. K. Troendle noted that a letter of concern was sent to the New Durham Parks and Recreation Director about the incident and no response has been received to date.

Jones Field Expansion- K. Troendle reported that the Water Department is open to the possibility of expanding the area at Jones Field for additional field space on the Water Department property; they would need more information before issuing an approval.

Benefits of Parks and Recreation- The Director recommended promoting the benefits of Parks and Recreation through positive publicity. The Commission suggested contacting the newspapers to take photos and write a story about the special events and programs sponsored by the department.

Granite Bench- K. Troendle informed the Commission that Ed Lyons's family is interested in purchasing a granite bench to be placed in Alton Bay in memory of a family member. The Commission reviewed the requested location and noted that there is snow on the ground and they would like to be able to view the proposed site before approving the request.

Park Signs- K. Troendle recommended consolidating park signs with Town Ordinances and information required by DES for beaches as to avoid littering the park with signage. The Commission discussed posting a welcome sign at Echo Point and Riley Beach, indicating that they are Town Parks/Beaches. D. Cumming stated Town property should be posted. The Commission will review the proposed consolidated sign and will discuss signage at a future meeting.

Revolving Fund staff- The Commission discussed the wages for summer program staff and recommended the pay for the program assistant be \$9.00/hour, the program leader \$10.00/hr and \$.25 increments.

Adjournment

W. Lionetta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55pm; motion was seconded by M. Wells and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kellie Troendle, Certified Park and Recreation Professional
Parks and Recreation Director*