

Minutes
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission
September 12, 2012
A.V.A.S. Building, 6:30pm

Members Present: William Lionetta, Cathy Burke, and Elizabeth Shelton

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle

Public: Judy and Larry Budweiser

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman, W. Lionetta at 6:30pm.

Approval of Agenda

W. Lionetta made a motion to amend the Agenda to move the discussion of Riley Road Beach Rules to the top of the Agenda; motion was seconded by E. Shelton and passed.

Approval of Minutes

E. Shelton made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 23, 2012 as presented; motion was seconded by C. Burke and passed.

New Business

Riley Road Beach Rules- K. Troendle informed the Commission about a concern that was brought to the Parks and Recreation Department about Riley Road Beach/Dock and users of the facility. An abutter communicated the following concerns: (1) Rules for the Beach are not posted; (2) People bring dogs to the facility; (3) Parking is an issue with beach users blocking off access to the waterfront; (4) The swim area is not defined; and (5) People are climbing on the jetty that is not Town Property. The Commission discussed the concerns and recommended the issues be brought to the Town Administrator for review.

Dogs on Playing Fields- K. Troendle informed the Commission about an issue with dogs on playing fields at Jones Field and at the soccer fields at other Towns. In the playing schedule it was clearly stated on the first page and on each schedule page that dogs are not permitted on the fields at each host facility. Concerns with dogs on the playing fields include the possible transmission of disease through dog waste and fear of dogs/attacks for some facility users. The Commission recommended that coaches be asked to enforce the policy and that signs be posted at Jones Field prohibiting dogs from the playing fields.

Old Business

Volleyball Tournament- K. Troendle reported on the 2012 Mike Burke Memorial Co-Ed Volleyball Tournaments and noted the following issues for discussion: (1) A female participant yelled with profanity at two staff members regarding a scoring issue/a few other participants had rude mannerisms/behaviors and inappropriate language; (2) Several teams did not pre-register with payment as requested and finally paid on the event day; (3) 1 team cancelled after confirming their participation and shirts were already ordered and they did not submit a registration fee; (4) Players arrived late to the second tournament and it started 40 minutes late (after teams were asked to be

there 30 minutes early and to start on time); (5) The tournament lost approximately \$310.00; (6) Weather is an issue if it rains/thunderstorms; (7) The tournament staff hours were approximately 36 hours to organize and run the tournament; and (8) Ed Constantino submitted a letter to the Board of Selectmen addressing the parking of the volleyball players on the Town Basketball Courts as inappropriate. The Commission discussed the purpose of the Tournament and noted it has run for 18 years and perhaps with the issues being experienced that the Tournament has run its course. The Commission advised that players participating in events at Liberty Tree Park can park their vehicle across the street from the Fire Station as there is limited space at the facility, even in the marked "Visitor Parking" area.

Co-Ed Adult Softball League- The Commission discussed the Adult Softball League Program and concerns brought forward originating from an email by Rob Glidden addressed to the League Coaches. The Commission noted that with cheating, illegal bats/cleats, umpire trashing, poor behavior, alcohol, lack of umpires for hire, etc. the League is just not fun anymore and is not a community program. K. Troendle stated S. Renner (absent from the meeting) recommended two options to address the umpire issue. Either no players be umpires or that each team is required to supply a person to umpire x number of games per season. The Adult Softball League Coaches will be meeting next Wednesday evening to review the 2012 season and address League issues. The Commission stated that the Softball League has gone away from its mission and specifically noted the Player's Code of Conduct Contract, that was developed to deal with these same issues: Sportsmanship, Attitude, Behavior and the contracts have been violated by some players. The Commission stated they are leaning toward not offering the Adult Softball League Program in 2013 and are recommending that the Board of Directors form their own entity and run the program.

5K Race- The Commission discussed the option of "Chip Timing" as an added feature to the Old Home Day 5K Race for an additional \$200.00. Chip Timing provides a more accurate time for each participant and the categories/results are calculated faster. The Commission also discussed the benefits and agreement of using online registration and decided to eliminate the walking category from the race because it is too hard to enforce and some "Walkers" were running. W. Lionetta recommended checking into the USATF Rules regarding sanctioned races and what items are permitted/prohibited and to include those rules on the registration form. K. Troendle said a group from the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center (Ronald Bell) expressed an interest in helping at the 2013 5K Race by providing a group of volunteers for the finish line, and water for the water station and finish line.

New Business

Face Book- The Commission discussed adding a "Like Us On Face Book" button to the Town Web Site/Parks and Recreation Page.

Yard Sale Map- W. Lionetta offered to help design a new Yard Sale Map to use next year.

Adjournment

E. Shelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm; motion was seconded by C. Burke and passed. **The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 6:30pm at AVAS.**

Respectfully submitted,

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