

**Minutes**  
**Alton Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**September 22, 2009**  
**A.V.A.S. Building, 6:30pm**

Members Present: William Lionetta, Elizabeth Shelton, Gerry Theodora, and Cydney Johnson.

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle

***Call To Order***

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

***Approval of Agenda***

E. Shelton made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented; motion was seconded by G. Theodora and passed.

***Approval of Minutes August 11, 2009***

C. Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 11, 2009 as presented; the motion was seconded by E. Shelton and passed.

***Public Input***

There was no public input.

***Old Business***

Adult Softball League- Jones Field Fence- The Commission discussed the installation of a flexible safety fence, the SAF-NET-SYS for the adult softball program at Jones Field. Currently the Alton Youth League has a fence system in place at Jones Field and the Commission discussed using the Youth League's fence and purchasing the additional materials to make the fence longer to 280', which is what the adult softball program would require for their games. The Commission discussed the benefits of the safety fence, to delineate the outfield and stop rolling balls and noted that if the Youth League is willing to share their existing fence the Town would be responsible for replacing the fence if it was damaged. C. Johnson said the Youth League may be able to receive a discount on the purchase of the fence and will look into that as the Youth League will be ordering equipment shortly. W. Lionetta made a motion to recommend the purchase of the additional safety fence/materials needed for the adult softball program; motion was seconded by C. Johnson and passed.

Park Facilities Brochure- The Commission reviewed the recommended changes to the brochure from the last meeting and discussed selling ads to help cover the cost of the printing. The Commission discussed the different size options, 8.5" x 11" and 11"x17" and the number of advertisements that would fit on the brochure. The cost estimate for the 8.5" x 11" for 1000 black and white copies is \$175.00 and color is \$425.00. W. Lionetta said he will get a cost estimate for the 11"x17" brochure size for the Commission to review. Once the Commission decides which size brochure they would like to print then the cost per ad can be calculated and local businesses can be contacted to see if they are interested in participating.

***New Business***

Play Group Program- K. Troendle reported that the Lil' Pesaukees Play Group was recently informed that their funding through the Giggles and Grins Resource Center would end. K. Troendle

said she met with the Play Group director two weeks ago and discussed options for the Play Group. K. Troendle said the Play Group director reported that the group meets two times per week, and the program director was paid by Giggles and Grins \$25.00 per session. There are typically seven to eight children per session with an average of forty-five families participating in the program. The estimate to run the program is \$3,000.00-\$4,000.00 per year to include staff and supplies. The Play Group director said the group may be able to fund raise to keep the program running. K. Troendle and the Play Group director discussed the possibility of the Parks and Recreation Department helping to cover costs, the benefits of the program to the community and the program participants not able to pay a fee for the program. The Commission reviewed the information and noted that they would like to see the program be self-sufficient through fund raising, grant writing or donations. The Commission questioned the increase in liability if the Parks and Recreation Department were to completely sponsor the program. K. Troendle reported that Giggles and Grins did have structured rules and regulations for the program facilitators to follow and the employees did receive background checks and were also certified in CPR and First Aid. K. Troendle said she would ask the Town Administrator about the increased risk of liability and the Town's role in taking donations and paying the staff as employees. The Commission said they would like to see the program participants take responsibility for a program that has a value to them and were hopeful that the program would continue through the participant's efforts.

*New Durham User Fees for Soccer League Program-* K. Troendle reported that New Durham is proposing to charge a user fee to all of the Towns for participating in the Recreation Soccer Program. The user fee on the invoice was suggested at \$25.00 per team and the officials fees were asked to be paid for in advance and if any games were canceled New Durham said they would keep the funds and put it toward their field maintenance expenses. The director said that the reaction from the participating towns was to keep the fees the same for this season because of the short notice and the league said it would be something they would address for next year if New Durham believes they should be getting compensated for people using their fields. K. Troendle said Wakefield offered to host the games at their location and to run their concession stand to pay for the officials for the league games. The director said there is an end of the season meeting scheduled in November and wanted to get the feedback from the Commission as to their opinion/stand on paying a user fee to play eight games on Saturdays in New Durham. The Commission discussed the proposal and asked the director to request a copy of the meeting minutes from the Board of Selectmen and/or New Durham Parks and Recreation Commission where the topic was discussed and the decision was voted on to charge the user fee so the Alton Parks and Recreation Commission would have a record of the new fee structure/increase. The Commission believed it would be helpful to have the meeting minutes to help them form an opinion on the user fee charge.

*Fall Programs-* The director reported that Halloween is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2009 from 5:00pm-7:00pm. K. Troendle has been in contact with the PTSA in regard to co-sponsoring a Halloween Event/Parade. The PTSA is looking for a chairperson to take charge of the Halloween Event. The Commission offered a suggestion to have the Costume Parade start at the school and then go down School Street to Main Street and along Main Street up Church Street back to the Central School.

*Other*

Music Classes- The Commission received a request to co-sponsor a music class/program with an individual that has a private company teaching music to children. The class is one session per week for 4 weeks for 45-60 minutes per day for ages 1-6, cost is \$40. The Commission was not in support of co-sponsoring the program because of the high cost but recommended that they could rent the Town community center to offer their classes. The director will respond to the inquiry and send the information about the community center rentals to the music teacher/company.

Storage Shed at Jones Field- The Commission discussed the small storage building at Jones Field and the relocation of the building to use for Grounds and Maintenance equipment. The building was donated to the Town from the Alton Youth League. The Commission discussed painting the building green to match the Green Monster and repairing the holes and making the building secure. E. Shelton made a motion to make the improvements to the storage building not to exceed \$300.00; motion was seconded by C. Johnson and approved. W. Lionetta abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

Flag Football- There are thirteen players registered for the program and it is going well. The reversible, official NFL jerseys were a big hit with the players. The team is looking to request the use of the PMHS field for a game on a Saturday and K. Troendle will send a request to the PMHS with the requested dates. The team will be having an end of the year pizza party to celebrate their achievements.

Youth League- The Commission discussed Jones Field and new equipment that is needed at the facility. The director said the Town has money set aside for new equipment in the budget and asked for items that the Youth League thought were needed for the safety and security of the park. The Alton Youth League recommended the purchase and installation of a security system to help deter/reduce the vandalism at Jones Field. G. Theodora will help get a cost estimate for the security system. The Youth League also said that dugout fencing and a net system installed across the trees would be helpful and they will get estimates for those materials and could put the fence and net up during field clean up day. The Youth League asked if the Town's insurance would cover vandalism/theft of the permanent structures at Jones Field and K. Troendle will ask the Town Administrator and report back to the Commission.

### *Adjournment*

E. Shelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm; motion was seconded by G. Theodora and passed. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 6:30pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

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