

Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes
Thursday, June 24, 2004
Durham Town Hall – Council Chambers
7:00 PM

Attending: Ken Andersen, Denny Byrne, Jane Crooks, George Lamb, Jerry Needell, Frank Pilar, and Melanie Rose

I. Public Comments.

There were none.

II. Approval of the Minutes of May 20, 2004

The minutes were approved.

III. Introduction of Our New Committee Member

George Lamb was welcomed as our new Committee member. We still have room for an alternate member.

IV. Discussion Items

Woodridge playground reconstruction was authorized by the Town Council at their meeting of June 21, 2004.

Chief Dave Kurz's proposed ordinance regulating overnight camping on Town land was discussed. Briefly, the ordinance states that a permit, issued by the Town Administrator, be required of anyone wishing to camp overnight. Several modifications and clarifications were proposed. The language about the kindling of fires needs to be made clearer. Also, how easy will it be to get a permit? Issuance of a permit should be done promptly once the applicant has a fire permit in hand, if one is needed. Signs notifying of the permit requirement as well as a _Carry In - Carry Out_ statement should be posted at relevant sites. The results of our deliberation will be sent to Dwight Baldwin, chair of the Conservation Commission. Eventually a proposal will be sent to the Town Council for action.

Jane Crooks will arrange a meeting of the Trail Policy subcommittee, whose members are Ken Andersen, Dennis Byrne (ad hoc), Jane Crooks (chair) and Melanie Rose from our Committee and Beryl Harper, Duane Hyde (ad hoc), Jim Hellen and George Thomas from the Conservation Commission. This Committee, established on June 10 together with the Conservation Commission, will consider what activities should be allowed or prohibited on Town land.

Relevant to trails, some members felt that directions are needed on how to get to the Recreational Sites which we listed on the Town website. This will be done. We also need to acquaint citizens of Durham with the trail maps. Perhaps funds to publish hard copies of these maps, etc. could be obtained from the Town or from sponsors.

Denny Byrne gave an update on the Mill Pond dredging project and on the Oyster River channel restoration effort.

Denny Byrne gave an update on the ORYA director selection process. There were a large number of applicants.

V. New Business

Melanie Rose suggested that our Committee might have an Information Booth at the Durham Day picnic in September. The idea was greeted positively. Perhaps other Town committees might join us in this endeavor.

Our next meeting will be on July 15, the third Thursday of the month.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.