

Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes
Thursday, September 22, 2005
Durham Town Hall – Council Chambers
7:00 PM

Attending: Ken Andersen, Denny Byrne, Jane Crooks, George Lamb, Neil Niman, John Parry, Frank Pilar

The meeting was called to order by Chair Parry at 1902. There were no public comments.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as recorded.

I. Property Use/Policy Issues. There was a brief discussion of Cedar Point Landing. A list was passed out concerning potential uses for Durham properties. Jane Crooks passed out a plan for bypassing the beaver ponds on Longmarsh Road. A grant for constructing the two bypasses will be applied for. A rough map of the area was passed out. Jane suggested having a "trail hiking day" to acquaint citizens with our existing trail system.

II. Durham Day Displays/Activities. It was recorded that the activities were very well received by the public.

III. Jackson's Landing Discussion. Motion by Andersen and seconded by Lamb:

"The Parks and Recreation Committee enthusiastically supports the pre-proposal sponsored by the Conservation Commission for a grant from the Department of Environmental Services for the Jackson's Landing Restoration Project (Phase 1), and we are prepared to sponsor this if needed." Passed unanimously. It was mentioned that playground funds for this area are available. Neil Niman discussed the possible location of the town library and a skateboarding rink across from the existing skating rink. It was noted that the Old Landing Road also has considerable unused potential and that this should not be lost sight of. There was broad support from committee members for restoring the Oyster River channel.

IV. Recreational Needs Survey. It was mentioned that Todd Selig needs to be kept informed on what is being done. Chair Parry mentioned that the Action Plan reports will begin to be discussed at the next meeting. Lamb passed around a number of photos of recreation programs existing in Louisville, CO.

V. Miscellaneous. Niman reported that a plan is now being developed for use of the W. Arthur Grant property. A list of recreational opportunities in the Durham area was introduced and discussed. Niman offered to create a database for regional recreational interests, with the final to be available on website. Byrne will keep us informed on future playing field needs, etc. Expansion of Woodridge and Foss Farm recreational uses was discussed briefly. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Durham was discussed and the need for spraying--never done before in Durham--was discussed. It was reported that the town is now considering spraying a possibility.

Moved by Byrne and seconded by Niman to adjourn. Motion passed and adjournment took place at 2107.