

Durham Parks and Recreation Committee  
Minutes April 20, 2006

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

The meeting was called to order at 1904. There were no public comments. The minutes of the 23 March meeting were approved unanimously after Pilar mentioned that Sprucewoods is one word and not two as recorded in the previous minutes.

1. John Parry indicated his willingness to remain as the P&R chair but said he would like to have a vice-chair in case the need arose.
2. It was mentioned that this might be the year to bring up the case of hiring a Recreation Director but no firm resolution was made.
3. David Proulx reported on ORYA and its various needs: viz., Program Director, place to store equipment, restroom facilities, supporting dollars, place to meet, etc.. The question arose as to how Lee and Madbury would react to being under a Durham Recreation Director. Julian Smith, who arrived at 1924, mentioned his conflict with the Thursday meeting date. The committee will consider a new meeting day starting with the May meeting.
4. Public Survey on Recreation Needs. Denny Byrne mentioned that a report is in preparation and will be ready next week. Use is being made of Lebanon's experience.
5. Jane Crooks reported that the Longmarsh Trail grant proposal is still in limbo since a second proposal had to be submitted. An adopt-a-trail policy is being looked at.
6. Neil Niman reported on organizational problems involved in working with Lee and Madbury. It was suggested that Lee and Madbury personnel be invited to appear at one of our future meetings to give an overview of potential problems.
7. Discussion of the Master Plan will be moved to late June or later.
8. A number of P&R members accompanied DPW director Mike Lynch to examine three potential playing field sites. These are as follows:
  - a. Lee gravel pit. This has a long history of being discussed.  
(Denny Byrne left at 1955 for another meeting)
  - b. Woodridge area. Some doubt as to what is Fogg land and UNH land. There are adjoining wetlands but enough dry area for playing fields.
  - c. Durham Business Park.

Neil Niman suggests giving serious consideration to (b) but we need to know more details of the site, especially of the usable area. It would be desirable to begin building fields next spring. Julian Smith opined that (a) was the least attractive of the three sites.

9. The question of a community center was raised. Neil Niman remarked that paying for it would constitute a major problem.

10 Julian Smith reported on the trail work on the Merrick property along Canney Road. Call Julian at 246 Packer's Fall Road if you wish to visit the trail.

11. Comments were made about Gary Bannon's March report on the Dover recreation program. There was much concern about the expense of the program, but it was suggested that Durham could begin a similar program but on a much smaller scale.

12. Neil Niman will follow up on property now owned by Heidelberg-Harris wrt use by Durham for recreation.

13. Chair Parry suggested that the P&R Committee members visit our web page and suggest changes and/or additions.

14. Jane Crooks and John Parry assisted in the Spucewoods Easter Egg Hunt last Saturday. No report as to whether or not the Easter Bunny was sighted in the area.

Meeting was adjourned at 2039 on Public Access to Information