

**Minutes of Durham Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 13, 2006**  
**7:00 PM**

**Durham Police Department Building**

*(items in bold italics are action items agreed too)*

**Present**

Julian Smith, Neil Niman, Kathy Leach, Denny Byrne, George Lamb, Jane Crooks, John Parry

**No public comment**

**Minutes from April were approved**

**Discussion of Committee Meeting dates**

It was decided to return to our previous schedule of holding the monthly meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. This night seems to be the best for most members. It also allows us to meet in the Town Hall (instead of the Police Station) which is more convenient for members and public involvement. Julian Smith will regretfully not be able to stay on the committee since he is an elected member of the Library Board of Trustees which meets on that same night. Julian agreed to stay on the Trails sub-committee. Kathy Leach will be appointed to be the council rep. ***The next meeting is July 20.***

**ORYA Overview – Dave Proulx**

Tabled until next meeting

**Public Survey for Rec. Use in Durham – Denny Byrne**

Denny gave background on the P&R public survey document, which was prepared by Bob Barcelona of UNH. UNH students will be working on preparing and tabulating this. It is hoped the survey will be ready for distribution by the end of the summer. P&R does have some funds budgeted for preparation, printing, distribution. Some of the comments discussed at the meeting included;

Define what recreation is.

It is long. Currently takes about 30 minutes to complete. This is the maximum most people will commit.

There are no questions relating to P&R programming.

At least have question such as “ Do you think there is a need for additional programming for ....list age groups

Rearrange topics so the most important info is first.

Are the demographic questions necessary?

Should be designed so it can be machine tabulated.  
Check on how Police dept survey was done.

Distribution – Could be done via mail, email, web or with volunteer questioners.  
30% return is average.

We could have incentives for people to complete it (prizes, etc.). **John will ask Todd.**

Could do a random survey of a smaller number of residence and then focus effort on them and getting a good return.

**Committee members are to provide comments to Denny by June 23** (Dave Proulx has sent email with comment), **and then he will meet with Bob to discuss changes.** This is looking really good. Thanks to Bob and Denny for their work on this!

#### **Longmarsh Trail Grant Project - Jane Crooks**

The grant application was awarded for \$7, 940. Congratulations to Jane and the Trails sub-committee. State should be sending Grant contract to Todd by end of June. Once that is returned, work can begin, whether permitting. Most construction may happen in fall. . We have some matching funds in P&R budget to assist with some expenses not included in state share of grant. **Jane will keep us posted, and Parks committee will be ask to assist with construction.** The adopt a trail effort is also progressing, and they have had significant interest from the Boy Scouts.

#### **Jackson's Landing Committee Update – Neil Niman**

This work is progressing. Robbi Woodburn has prepared several drafts of a Master Plan, and the committee has divided into 4 task groups (Engineering/Environment and Landscape/Site Planning, Architectural Plans, Boating Issues Development of a Master Waterfront Plan for the Town) each to prepare a written narrative on the recommendations for each of those categories. We plan to have a draft proposal ready by Aug. 1, a public hearing around Aug. 14, and present the report to the council in Sept, and then submit for available grants such as the DES grant Oct. 7. It was suggested to include space for Durham Parks staff in any ice arena expansion.

The dock was broken loose during the flooding, and the rowing club has contributed funds to repair it by installing an aluminum ramp.

#### **Playing Field – Denny Byrne**

Denny is participating with the school playing field group which has been meeting for three years. They had identified a property in Lee which they hoped to buy, but the bond issue for this failed. Lee has since bought that property. This committee feels that an effort including the three towns and the school district would be useful. They have begun inviting reps from Lee, Madbury and Durham

to those meetings. It was suggested that DPR host a workshop and invite interested parties from all three communities as a way to jump start this. The workshop would begin with profession speakers providing background on playing field issues, and then have a facilitated discussion among attendees on how to proceed. ***Kathy volunteered to take the lead on this.***

Suggested to consider synthetic material for surface to reduce turf maintenance and lengthen playing time in bad weather. Mike Lynch has some information on this that he would like to present. It was also suggested to do a GIS analysis of Durham, Lee and Madbury to ID potential properties that are appropriate (soils, slope, access, etc.). Suggested to look at Wagon Hill as a potential site and others. Our sub-committee (Neil, Dave, Denny, Kathy and John) will follow up. Denny will talk to UNH admin. about potential cooperation on this issue.

### **Recreation Activity Directory**

Nearly ready to put out. ***Neil or John will ask Luke (webmaster?) for assistance on this.*** When ready we will need to promote it's availability to organizations and citizens. Committee members can help with this effort.

### **Other Old Business**

Parks and Rec. Web Page Update – John did not edit yet. Will do it this month.

Driveway Permit – Julian and John looked at this property and submitted comment to town. This may come up rarely when application for building driveway on class 6 roads is submitted.

Town Workshop on Public Access to Information – There will be a town workshop on July 18 for anyone interested in Right to Know laws. We need to be aware that all of our communications (including emails) become part of the public record.

### **New Business/ Announcements**

Mill Pond Center will present to the town council, and may be asking for support from the town. This may be an opportunity for Parks to increase partnership here.

***The next meeting is Thursday, July 20 7:00 at the Town Hall.***