

## **Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes**

### **June 21, 2007**

Present: John Parry, Jane Crooks, George Lamb, Ken Andersen, Cathy Leach, Sara Wilson, Gregg Moore, Emily Slama

Chair Parry called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Minutes from May 17<sup>th</sup> were approved.

Public Comment: None

#### **Administrative:**

John Parry explained how the committee operates. As chair, he will send out information and correspondence via email as they come so we can discuss at the next meeting. Committee members are to email John with agenda items before the meeting. All committee members are encouraged to discuss, give input and express opinions.

#### **John will update Town website with new committee member's information.**

#### **Revision of Annual Committee Projects/Goals:**

Projects were categorized; prioritized and new projects were added.

#### **Subcommittees will come to next meeting with outline/ideas on how to move forward with goals.**

1. Public Awareness – Gregg, Ken and Jane will work on this
  - a. Recreational brochure for things to do in Durham
  - b. Develop and promote a directory of recreational opportunities (public and commercial) in Durham area
2. Programs & Activities – Jane, Gregg and Sara will work on this
  - a. Event of the Month to be included on the Town list serve – featuring a possible “grand opening” or guided tour/talk about historical relevance or just simply highlighting something fun to check out in Durham
  - b. Programs/Events
3. Properties & Facilities – John, George & Ken will work on this
  - a. Signs for x-country ski trails – maps are on website/Goodricke
  - b. Promote safe bike trails – add to website
  - c. Pursue establishment of soccer fields at gravel quarry in Lee. ID locations to build additional playing fields
  - d. Begin to implement Jackson's Landing Master Plan
  - e. Include recommendations in strategic plan for priority maintenance/improvements needed on recreation properties
  - f. Identify a location for a skateboard park
  - g. Maintain Trails and develop an adopt a trail program
4. Resources – staff, natural resources, volunteers – John will work on this
  - a. Fundraiser – give money earned to local charity
  - b. Develop a “Friends of Durham Parks” program to establish volunteer and donor support for the parks

5. Partnerships – Cathy will work on this
  - a. Enhance partnerships with other organizations as a way to offer recreation programs
  - b. Participate in Committee with Lee, Madbury, ORYA, UNH & ORSD to explore opportunities to share recreational resources
6. Administration – this is on going and involved the whole committee
  - a. Revise the Town Master Plan Chapter on Recreation and use as a basis for a strategic plan
  - b. Complete Town Survey and Final Report
  - c. Continue to explore how recreation programs/centers are developed in other communities
  - d. Develop use policy for Park properties, facilities and trails
  - e. Develop a master plan for Wagon Hill Park

Talked about Strategic Plan. Handout was given describing how to create one. Decided to think about it for next month's meeting. **Should we rewrite the document with new goals/objectives or simply fine tune current one? Everyone should review the old P&R Section in the 2000 Town Master Plan.**

Cathy Leach reported on an Ice Rink Committee Update

There should always be a member of the P & R on the Ice Rink Committee so we can keep on top of issues & information. Cathy is able to do it this session.

Updates: New entrance planned, looking into rental costs for all groups, discussing charging for public skate, public relations – website announcing activities

Skate Board Park is still on the radar. Location is an issue. Looking for parents/interested parties in community to fundraise and raise its priority level.

Discussion on Conservation Commission Presentation/Adopt a Trail project – keep tabs on these properties, **Review/think about Adopt a Trail Proposal for the next meeting – do we need to fine tune it? Do we want to take this on as one of our priorities?**

**Some discussion on all the different groups and committees that we need to stay in the loop on. John will request that we get on their email lists for meeting minutes, updates, etc.**

Gregg Moore brought an Eagle Scout proposed project to the table. Sam Hewitt wants to bridge two trails on Wagon Hill together. He will be responsible for bushwhacking and building a boardwalk to make this happen. There was some discussion. **Consensus was that committee would not object to this project, but felt there are others more desirable. Any project should have a plan developed for approval by the town as a first step.** Jane Crooks suggested projects and bridges that are also needed in case there are any other Eagle Scouts who need a project. A backboard needs to be created in one of the courts at Woodridge Park.

Jane also brought up a bequest of \$80.000 to Wagon Hill that could be **used for Improvements**. Someone needs to find these funds. **Cathy Leach offered to ask Todd Selig about this.**