

DURHAM PARKS AND RECREATION MINUTES...

September 18, 2008

Meeting attended by Gregg Moore, Emily Slama, Jenna Roberts, John Parry, Dave Leach, Mike Sievert and Sara Wilson. Not in attendance: Amy Cunningham and Pat Houle.

Minutes were not approved as they had not been presented and secretary was absent.

There was no public comment.

Correspondence: from a non-Durham resident who visited Wagon Hill. During her visit, she encountered a party down by the water and was distressed that she walked all the way down to the water and could not enjoy herself because the party was going on. Moreover, members of the party had driven their cars all the way down to the water. She suggested a sign being hung by the parking lot to make other visitors aware that there was a party and not discover it after making the long walk down to the water. This information was also given to DPW.

Mill Pond Center for the Arts attended the meeting to make a presentation regarding their interest in the Wagon Hill house for the site of their future home. They have a time line that they would like to follow, first was to meet with P&R, do a site walk and house tour (which was also attended by P&R committee chair, Sara Wilson). They plan to meet with heads of various Durham departments to discuss the condition of the home, project time lines, cost analysis, structural assessment and appraisals.

They plan to have fundraising to help assist in payment for renovations.

It is the feeling of MPCA that the town would benefit from this endeavor as they already serve as a community center for Durham and the Wagon Hill property would be better utilized.

All logistical information – building and financial are still in the beginning stages and were not available.

It was asked of the committee, by Councilor Niman, to support or not support the investigation of playing fields that could possibly be at the Sprucewoods location pending other negotiations with the town. It was agreed unanimously that we issue the following statement:

"The town is in dire need of fields. If the research further supports that fields could come into fruition, then the Parks and Recreation committee fully supports the council's decision."

Activities Planning:

It was decided to email Cathy Leach and offer our assistance in the Halloween skate party. Sara offered to do this

It was moved to have the Light up Durham activity put on the November agenda.

The group stayed to watch the slide show of photos taken by Sara during her tour of the Wagon Hill house.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15