

MINUTES
Town of Durham, Parks & Recreation Committee
January 21, 2010

Present: Sara Wilson (chair), Amy Cunningham (secretary), Jenna Roberts, Jean Olson, Gregg Moore, Mike Mengers (P&R Director), Dave Leach (Absent: Mike Sievert)

Visitors present: Robin Mower, Town Council

Public Correspondence: Town Councilor Robin Mower brought to the attention of the committee the Trust for Public Land proposal for the Sprucewood/Tecce parcels of land, which includes possible space for athletic fields. The committee discussed the proposal with Councilor Mower. It was suggested that the committee could help to build public support in the community for the proposal, including writing letters of support, and speaking during public comment at the Town Council meeting of February 1st. The committee determined that supporting the proposal at this time would be premature. Some members of the committee will try to attend the Town Council meeting of February 1st to learn more about the TPL proposal.

Motion: Jenna Roberts, seconded by Amy Cunningham, to move the P&R Committee monthly meetings from the third Thursday of the month, to the fourth Thursday of the month. **Vote:** 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion passed. **The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 25th.**

Motion: Sara Wilson seconded by Jenna Roberts, to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the P&R Committee, November 19, 2009. **Vote:** 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Discussion

The committee would still like to know more about the gravel pits and whether that land is still a viable option for athletic fields.

Reports and Updates:

P&R Director's Report – Mike Mengers reported the following:

- There will be a Winter Festival & Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, February 6th on the Mill Pond and Mill Pond Rd. UNH and Churchill Rink are donating skates and snowshoes; there will be a bonfire and s'mores; hot chocolate and water to drink. ORHS, UNH, Durham Fire Dept, and Durham Police Dept are participating. Jean Olson and Andrea Bodo-Burns are coordinating with Mike. All proceeds from the Chili Cook-Off (at \$5 per cup of chili) will go to a fund to restore the Smith Chapel. Volunteers are needed to help either with the chili or with games on the pond. It would be preferred to close Mill Pond Rd. Jean will check with the Durham PD about setting this up.
- Mike represented the P&R Committee at a meeting with Mike Lynch and Ellen Schneider about a soil erosion grant for Wagon Hill. There is a 50/50 matching grant possible as well as state and federal funds to help. The committee agreed that Mike represent P&R to further investigate with Mike Lynch the grant to alleviate soil erosion at Wagon Hill.
- New tables and chairs, paint, and a coat rack have been purchased and/or installed at the P&R building. Mike, and helpers, have begun painting the activities room.
- Classes are going well. Yoga has a waiting list, and enrollment in Kathy Kerrigan's classes is good. ORPP uses the activities room for "Wild Rumpus Time" which is well attended, and has also had an afternoon movie event for children. Coming is an 8-week beginners Karate class which will be taught by Quest Martial Arts (Barrington) at no charge. An art class for middle school aged children will be coming soon, too. Tennis classes will be back, hopefully including classes for adults.

There was discussion as to whether the classes offered through P&R are priced fairly, and if all classes should be the same cost. Mike pointed out that negotiating rates with instructors, as well as what teaching a particular class entails, are factors in determining the class cost.

Chair's Report – Sara Wilson reported on the following:

- Pat Houle has decided to resign from the committee. We wish him the best and thank him for his service!

- Need to determine, and set, goals for 2010. More discussion of this will follow at the meeting in February.
- Regarding Wagon Hill soil erosion, the idea of oyster beds and living erosion preventatives such as trees, rocks, etc., has been proposed.

Action Items:

- The date for the Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 3rd. Details will be determined at upcoming committee meetings.
- We will hold another Cocoa On The Hill event at Wagon Hill during sledding season.
Motion: Amy Cunningham, seconded by Sara Wilson, to spend up to \$60 for a Cocoa On The Hill event at Wagon Hill. **Vote:** 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion passed.
-

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,
Amy Cunningham