

MINUTES
Town of Durham, Parks & Recreation Committee
April 22, 2010

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

Visitors present: Diana Carroll, Town Council Chairperson

Public Comment: Diana Carroll came to the meeting to discuss the idea of closing Mill Pond Rd., to vehicular traffic on Sundays for a portion of the day in order for people to bicycle, walk, roller-skate, etc., during summer months. The idea came after the success of the Winter Fest and seeing how much town residents enjoyed having that area of Mill Pond Rd., open to pedestrians only. The committee and Council Chairperson Carroll discussed the possible advantages and disadvantages of the idea.

Motion: Jenna Roberts, seconded by Amy Cunningham, to table discussion of the idea of closing Mill Pond Rd., to vehicular traffic on Sundays for a portion of the day from June through August until the next Parks & Recreation Committee meeting on May 27, 2010. **Vote:** 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion passed.

There was brief discussion of the priority of the P&R Committee to move forward with making the P&R Director position a full-time position, with Mike Mengers remaining in the director role, and the hope that the Town Council will see this as a priority for the town.

New P&R Committee member Diane Moore was introduced. Diane is serving a full 3-yr term.

Election of P&R Committee Officers for 2010-2011:

Jenna Roberts nominated Sara Wilson for P&R Committee Chair. Amy Cunningham seconded the nomination. **Vote:** Unanimous in favor.

Jenna Roberts nominated Amy Cunningham for P&R Committee Vice Chair. Gregg Moore seconded the nomination. **Vote:** Unanimous in favor.

Sara Wilson nominated Jenna Roberts for P&R Committee Secretary. Mike Sievert seconded the nomination. **Vote:** Unanimous in favor.

Reports and Updates:

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

- Mike and Amy are working on the Memorial Day Parade. There has been some dissatisfaction voiced about the change to the parade route. Though these comments are understood and appreciated, the route change will remain in effect due to safety and traffic concerns. Mike and Amy could use some help the morning of the parade with the logistics – directing parade participants, etc.
- Hannalore Moebius would like to offer free yoga at Wagon Hill this summer and is suggesting people make donations (please see Attachment A). After much discussion of whether or not to ask for donations, what types of donations could be made, and how the donations would or could be used, the committee decided to hold on making any decisions at this time.
Motion: Jenna Roberts, seconded by Mike Sievert, to table discussion of whether to ask for/receive donations at the free yoga classes being offered by Hannalore Moebius this summer at Wagon Hill. **Vote:** 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion passed.
- Hannalore Moebius has concerns regarding the cost of the yoga classes offered by P&R and whether our low cost impacts other similar businesses in town. (Please see Attachment A.) We use a standard formula used in parks & rec programs for costs of our classes and are competitive in that realm. We are not offering the same experience as a yoga studio nor the same level of class. It is agreed by those that have been spoken with that the P&R yoga classes are not competition to a studio experience.

- It needs to be stated for the record that Dennis Meadows was the driving force behind the Timberland Earth Day clean up at Wagon Hill, and not P&R.
- Dennis Meadows and Susan McClennan will work with P&R on a youth gardening program.

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

- Easter Egg Hunt – was a great success. Next year will break the age groups out further to 0-4 yrs, 4-8, 8+.
- Adopt-A-Trail –
Doe Farm – a neighbor of Sara's cleaned up 35 trees (!)
Long Marsh – a neighborhood group is being formed to clean up the trail
Anyone who is comfortable with chain-sawing can do so as long as Sara has their name and has submitted it to the town in order for them to be included under the town liability "umbrella."
Can the Boy Scouts help with clean up of our trails?
Gregg volunteered to take the lead on the Adopt-A-Trail project once again and will start sending correspondence on the project soon.
- A request has been made to have a fund raising table at Woodridge Park for an ORHS school project. The DPW and ORYA have already approved this.
Motion: Dave Leach, seconded by Amy Cunningham, to approve the request for the Power of One project fundraising table at Woodridge Park. **Vote:** 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion passed.
- Propose the idea of the Durham Bazaar, flea market, for June 12, 9am-12pm. \$10 for a 10'x10' space at the Churchill Rink. There are 115 spaces available. People can sell anything they like as long as it's legal. There will be an ice cream truck, hot dogs, and the local band Fling will play.
Motion: Dave Leach, seconded by Jenna Roberts, to schedule Durham Bazaar, June 12, 2010, 9am-12pm, at Churchill Rink, and charge \$10 per 10'x10' space. **Vote:** 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Other Reports –

- Jenna reported on the plans for the Sensory Garden at Jackson's Landing. Jerry Olson is donating time and materials to build the beds. ORPP and possibly the Durham Garden Club will help with bed maintenance. UNH technical writing group is putting together a brochure for the project. Cost estimate is approximately \$750. The Jackson's Landing Committee will give \$500. Jenna is asking the P&R Committee for \$250 toward the project.
Motion: Amy Cunningham, seconded by Gregg Moore, for P&R to spend \$250 on the implementation of the Sensory Garden project at Jackson's Landing. **Vote:** 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,
Amy Cunningham