

PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION

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TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

STW Community Center

July 21, 2014

Minutes

Present: Brian Lynch, Victor Palma and Steve Torino and
Karen Ablondi

Also Attending: Director Pam Gery, RTC Member Steve
Onofrio, Joe Mascari, NB Little League (Baseball) and Brent
Aiken, NB Little League (Softball).

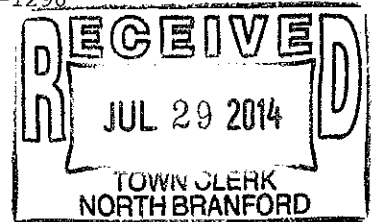
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian
Lynch at 7:30 pm.

Minutes:

The March Minutes were approved unanimously.

Town Sports Organizations:

Representing the Little League baseball and softball
groups, Joe Mascari brought their scheduling problems to
the attention of the Commission. Most concerned as the
need for additional fields and/or repairs needed on some of
the current fields. They would like to see upgrades so that
Tournaments could be held locally as well as improving the
clay at the new Wall Field which can be as hard as cement
after a rain. Some fields, such as Coulter, can't be used
for practice for three or four days after a storm and it
has caused some teams to miss their practice turns
repeatedly when there is rain. The Commission recommended



that all their concerns and requests be submitted to Pam in writing and that they talk to members of the Town Council concerning their needs so she can officially address them.

Pam explained that there had been State grants offered for repairs to parks, but they were cut drastically and the monies hoped for never lived up to expectations. The BOE helped with repairs to the school courts but redoing the tennis courts remains a priority because the cost of just repairing or resurfacing them is substantial and is only a temporary fix. The Commission agreed that Pam needs to find out if the allotted \$117,000 will be enough to do a complete re-do of Memorial Tennis Courts, which is the highest of priorities list to get fixed.

Parks and Fields:

Signs will be erected soon prohibiting use of the trails by people using ATVs so that the Police can curtail this use. Without signs, the Police have no recourse and the Town remains at risk.

a. Dog Park:

Pam said that their fundraising has been successful but nothing has been decided as yet where to install an area for them. She has been in contact with other towns to see how they manage their parks, but the original plan called for the people involved to be form their own management committee who would be responsible for governing and maintaining it. It should not become an obligation for the Public Works after the park is complete.

Program Review:

The Kids Kamp has been successful, though a problem was addressed about the table in the hall where parents/guardians sign the kids in an out of the program. Pam was assured by the Fire Marshall that it did not cause a hazard where it was relocated near the registration table, however the BOE wanted it removed from the Lobby. It was pointed out that all the schools require such a table be set up for this purpose and the P & R program also needs this safety provision. For now, the table should stand.

She also reported that the Potato & Corn Festival is coming along great and is less then two weeks away; the new program brochure is printed and a Connecticut magazine has

named the NB Corn and Potato Festival as one of the top 20 in the State.

New Property Projects:

Nothing report.

Budget Review:

The budget will probably remain the same without any increases as has been the case in the past. She will still submit a 'wish list', but doesn't seem likely since there is already a spending freeze in effect.

STW Community Center

The Public Works Dept. is installing the new parking area and once complete, the staff parking situation will probably improve and be visited again. Pam will address the staff parking once the new parking area is finished and that should be by September.

Senior Center

Working well.

Adjournment:

Mr. Donofrio, the RTC member who was present, commended the Board for all their efforts and offered his support and will address the need for a new Commission member.

The August meeting be cancelled due to the Festival and since there would be a quorum problem. The next meeting will be on Monday, September 15th, 2014 at 7:30 at the STW Community Center when Pam hopes to have Fran Merlo present to address plans and concerns.

On a motion by Brian Lynch, seconded Victor Palma and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi
Mary Leigh Bianchi
Clerk