

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2008**

Adequate notice of this meeting, in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, has been given by posting one copy of the Notice of Meeting in the Washington Township Administrative office, by making copies to the "Express Times" and "Star Gazette," and to the municipal clerk in Washington Township.

The regular meeting of the Washington Township Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman, M. Kries.

ATTENDEES

R. Berrie, J. DeFranza, D. Detrick, W. Godfrey, M. Kries, J. Miller, B. Jeffries. WTRC Administrator, N. Godfrey, Committeeman, B. Mueller and DPW Park Foreman, J. Cooper were also present. Absent: S. Fritts, D. Schott

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman M. Kries asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of September 2, 2008. J. DeFranza made a motion to approve the minutes of September 2, 2008, W. Godfrey seconded. All in favor.

MEADOW BREEZE PARK

Replacement of Dragon at Old Playground - Awaiting installation next week.

J. DeFranza and M. Kries commended J. Cooper on the great job that was done lining the parking lot by the football field. The new configuration should make entering, parking and exiting the lot much easier during spring baseball and fall football games.

With regards to the 2008 Project list the following items were discussed.

Ice Skating - J. Cooper reported that preparation for this will take place during the month of November.

Broken Picnic Bench at Pohatcong Creek Natural Area - J. Cooper reported that the bench has been removed

Missing Boards on Bridge at Pohatcong Creek Natural Area - J. Cooper reported that the boards have been replaced

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor D. Dempski reported that he has received the reports on both the Phase I and Soil Testing environmental studies that were done on the Mill Pond Property. The key items that they look for are organic phosphates, arsenic, pesticides, lead and anything else that could lead to serious consequence. The Soil Testing came back well below the thresholds for what the DEP would look for. We are well under the threshold for these types of contaminants. The Mayor had some concerns about some of the statements that were made in the Phase I Study, however. There was some mention that we are in the Superfund Site, which the whole Township is in. The Superfund Site runs from Mansfield Twp. to Greenwich Twp., and it is a very large plume. The Mayor suggested that these reports be sent down to Green Acres, stating that we would like to develop this property as an active recreational facility (baseball, soccer, multipurpose fields) and we would like you to review the Phase I and Soil Testing studies to see if they feel if there are any other impediments that they feel would prevent them from funding us from future development. N. Godfrey will have these reports sent to the attention of Rich Osborne, Green Acres Program.

The Mayor also reported that approximately 35 acres could possibly be used for development into playing fields in comparison to the 27 acres in use at the current Meadow Breeze Park. If Green Acres agrees to help fund this project, the remaining funding could possibly come from Open Space Trust Fund and possibly the Recreation Trust Fund. B. Jeffries asked if we spend this money would interfere with the weather proofing of the Pavilion? N. Godfrey reported that the weather proofing of the Pavilion will be a 2009 budgeted item and she will be working closely with P. deBoer, DPW Manager, and J. Cooper, Park Foreman, with their park maintenance budget for 2009.

New Use Fee Schedule Review - There was a lengthy discussion on the new park fee schedule. It was decided that both Basketball Courts (BB) and Volley Ball Courts (VB.) should be included as fields with a \$30.00 Resident fee and a \$60.00 Non-Twp. Resident fees. Also Mayor Dempski noted that since the park is funded by Green Acres the wording "Profit" should be taken out of the Commercial category, since under Green Acres rules there should be no one using the park for a "profit" situation. After this discussion, a motion was made by B. Jeffries, seconded by J. DeFranza to approve the schedule as presented to the Commission tonight. All in Favor. N. Godfrey will give the Township Attorney the changes so he can prepare the Amendment to the Fee Ordinance to be introduced at either the October or November Township Committee meeting with 2nd reading and adoption no later than the December Twp. Committee meeting. This Ordinance must be in place by December 31, 2008 so we can start charging the new fees beginning January 1, 2009.

FINANCIAL & BUDGET REVIEW

R. Berrie reported that N. Godfrey supplied the Use Fee Schedule and to date we have collected \$9150 in use fees. There has been no financial report received this month to report on.

ACTIVE AREAS

J. Cooper reported that the DPW would like to make the parking lot here at the "Old" Police Bldg., as soon as the police are fully moved out, as additional overflow parking for the park. They would like to make the upper entrance to the building as "Entrance only" and make the bottom area as an "Exit only" so people will enter on the top portion of the parking lot and exit at the bottom portion. They will line the existing parking lot so people will have additional parking in designated areas. This should help with the existing problem with people parking on the grass around the fields.

PASSIVE AREAS

The police arrested kids up at Lake Marguerite drinking around the lake. The police have increased their patrols around the passive park areas, as well as Meadow Breeze Park, in an attempt to cut down on vandalism and illegal activities which have been occurring in recent months.

NEW BUSINESS

N. Godfrey reported that she had a request from Patti Conover who had the Pavilion rented for a wedding on September 6, 2008, the same day that Tropical Storm Hannah passed through our area. The Conover's had also rented the Pavilion on August 23, 2008 for the wedding shower which went very well. Because of Tropical Storm Hannah, they were not able to use the Pavilion for the wedding and have respectfully asked, that under the unforeseen circumstances, which they could not control, we refund them the \$100.00 they paid for the rental of the Pavilion for September 6, 2008. A motion was made by B. Jeffries that due to the untimely arrival of Tropical Storm Hannah, we refund Patti Conover the \$100.00 that was paid for the rental of the pavilion on September 6, 2008, seconded by D. Detrick. All in favor. N. Godfrey will have a Refund Resolution prepared for the next Twp. Committee meeting.

N. Godfrey reminded the Commission that the November meeting will be on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.**, because of the Presidential General Elections being held on Tuesday, November 4, 2008 at the building.

Having no further business to discuss, W. Godfrey moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 p.m., seconded by R. Berrie. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Godfrey
WTRC Administrator

cc: P. deBoer - DPW
D. Dempski - WTYA
Township Committee