

MINUTES

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
JUNE 12, 2013**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at the Town Hall, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT., Lower Level Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino
.....Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman
.....Mike Roccanti
.....Leeayn Burke
.....Gerry Crane
.....Brian Casinghino
.....Kerri Milne, Clerk

ABSENTBill Clark
.....David Rusnock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

MINUTES: Gerry made a motion to accept the minutes. Leeayn seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: Wendy received information from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, that the Suffield Parks and Recreation Department has been approved for the Amiel P. Zak Grant in the amount of \$7,935.00. The grant will be used toward the installation of chain link style dugouts for the Bruce Park softball and baseball fields. Suffield Little League has made a donation toward the project and the Public Works Department will be making a donation of in-kind services.

PROGRAM REPORTS: No comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bridge Street School Update: On May 14, 2013, Suffield residents were invited to attend the Suffield Speaks meeting, to express their opinions about the disposition of Bridge Street School, there was a turnout of approximately 70 people. The consultant for Suffield Speaks will be presenting their report at the Board of Selectman's Meeting on

June 19, 2013. The commission members feel that the consensus of the Suffield Speaks meeting is that most residents want to see Bridge Street School saved for the town's use.

Gloria Smith called and would like to show her support and have a spruce up/beautification day of the grounds to make the appearance more enticing during the process.

Tennis Court Project Update: The tennis court repair project, that was scheduled to begin the week of May 28, has been postponed due to the contractor's work being set back by the rain. No new start date has been set.

Summer Program Update: Registrations for the summer camps and programs have gotten very heavy during the past couple of weeks. Some programs are full and, if possible, additional programs have been added. Some programs still have low numbers but they are for programs that begin later in the summer. Staff orientation is next week and camp begins the week of June 24.

Lou inquired about the status staff and lifeguards. Wendy informed him that another guard is needed but there are still enough lifeguards to conduct the aquatics program. Additionally, the summer camp programs are set with camp counselors.

Brian was asked by a neighbor if White's Pond is cleaned before it is used by campers. The neighbor also mentioned he saw snakes at the Pond. Wendy informed him that the swimming area is raked and cleaned by the Highway Department. The guards also go into the swimming area and make it safe by removing any rocks, tree branches and other items that may have fallen in over the winter. The guards also rake the beach area during the summer to keep the beach area safe. The raft will be placed into the water next week. Safety depth checks are performed daily to make sure the depth of the water is at least 9' to 12' so the children can safely jump into the water. As far as the snakes, they usually swim away when the area is inhabited by jumping splashing kids. Additionally, if the guards see something they attempt to discreetly shoo it away or get the kids out of the water. The water is tested every two weeks by the North Central Health District. There have not been any issues in the past few years. The Town, through Conservation, has a program that if the water becomes green with algae the water gets treated with copper sulfate. If this occurs the water will be treated on a Friday afternoon and signs will be posted to advise the public.

Babbs Update: Gerry informed the commission that a contractor is doing soffit work, window trim, jay channels, etc and will be putting vinyl siding on the building to protect the plywood. Saturday, July 13 will be a work day at Babb's. C & S Wholesale will have volunteers present to assist in applying the vinyl siding. The CRC (Citizens Restoring Congamond) has decided to do away with the weekly concert at Babb's; there was not enough return for the effort put into the concert series. Instead they are going to attempt to put on two concerts this summer, one in July and one in August with named bands.

Gerry requested assistance from the Parks and Recreation commission in getting water hooked up at Babb's. After discussing the issue the commission decided they would like to assist the CRC with this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT: Cindy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Milne, Clerk