

Town of Woodbury
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Woodbury, CT 06798-0369

Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday December 3, 2019

Present:

Chairman Kippy West, Vice Chairman Leslie Gamsjager, Commissioner Drakeley, Alternates Sean Moran and Michelle Ecsedy and Director Jenifer Miller.

Absent: Commissioner Packett

Also present: Residents Kathy Doyle and Carol Haskins

1) Call to Order:

Chairman West called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and seated Alternates Ecsedy and Moran.

2) Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes: November 12, 2019

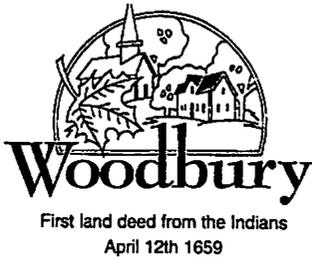
The following correction, in yellow, was made to the Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2019: Page #1 a) under Old Business:

The results of the survey were reviewed and discussed and the decision was that the survey showed that there was no overwhelming vote for any particular item. The most interesting item was that people would like to have a place to swim but would like a pool to swim in. The Commissioners discussed the leaches, snakes and turtles in the pond and cleaning up of the pond to make it useful but not to swim, and the possible use of the Woodlake pool for use by the Town. The survey showed an interest in ice skating and the Commissioners discussed several places to ice skate in Town including Orenaug Park, the Kettle and Hollow Pond. Alternate Ecsedy did some homework on the survey and discussed the history over the years on the pond and Parks and Recreation's ideas. In April 2014 Longmeadow Pond in Bethlehem reported an increase of use of out of towners because Hollow Pond had problems. In 2014/15 Parks and Recreation suggested we close the pond for one year. She said that in her opinion the Park and Recreation plan to make the area useable and desirable at a cost of \$30,050.00, brought to the Board of Selectmen in September 2018 and agreed to in October 2018 as agreed upon in 2018 by the Board of Selectmen, is the best option and supports the survey results. Alternate Moran felt that even if the pond were fixed up parents would not let their children swim in it and the survey bares out that not enough people would use the pond to swim in even if it were fixed up. Alternate Ecsedy pointed out that at the October 11, 2018 Board of Selectman meeting First Selectman Butterly reviewed the Parks and Recreation plan that was approved by Parks and Recreation in 2018 to make the park more desirable and useable. At that time Mr. Butterly said that he planned to go forward with the plan in March of 2019.

MOTION:

Alternate Moran made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission with the amended wording. Alternate Ecsedy seconded the motion.

Unanimously Approved



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3) Privilege of the Floor:

***Earth Day Request:** Carol Haskins came to the Parks and Recreation Commission to request permission to hold Earth Day on Saturday May 2, 2020 in Hollow Park. She said that the format would be the same as last year with food trucks, activities, music, local vendors, etc. There will be a charge to park cars but no admission charge for the actual Earth Day Celebration. A shuttle bus will be offered. Parking will be entered into Hollow Park by Woodbury Floral Design and exited by the life guard shack in the park. She said that the Earth Day Committee would like to have the Brewery participate and they would like to serve alcohol. The Commissioners discussed the fact that additional insurance, a special permit and a license would be needed in order to serve alcohol. The Earth Day Committee will also need to have several boards in Town check off their permission to hold the event, on the form that Director Miller has, before they can have the event. It was requested that they provide specs for the tent that they will be putting up. The Earth Day Committee will need to come back to the Parks and Recreation Commission on January 7, 2020 for final approvals.

Motion: Commissioner Drakeley made a motion to approve the application for the Earth Day Celebration on May 2, 2020 in Hollow Park provided all the necessary signoffs are gotten and that they provide proof of insurance. Alternate Escedy seconded the motion. **Unanimously Approved**

4) Old Business:

a) POCD Update: Publication timeline and Discussion of Action Items Designated for Parks and Recreation Commission and Department.

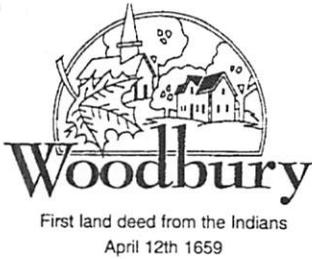
Director Miller said that there is a link to the draft POCD on the Town Website. There will be a public hearing on Wednesday January 8, 2020 of the POCD and if people want to make comments they can come to the hearing or send in written comments.

b) Town Building Committee Update regarding Parks and Recreation Facilities: There is no update at this time.

5) New Business:

a) Capital Plan: Director Miller said that her Capital Plan was the first to be given to the selectman's office. Director Miller took everything that was talked about at the last meeting and she and Chairman West took that and linked the format to the POCD plan. It will go to the Board of Selectmen and then to the Board of Finance for approval.

b) Drafting of Master Plan: In the POCD there is a recommendation for Parks and Recreation to put together a master plan for its programs and facilities. Director Miller made contact with two companies that had experience in putting together master plans. The Commissioners at the last meeting said that they thought that the recommendation could be handled in house as opposed to hiring a consultant to do the work. Director Miller feels that the Commission should have a couple of public listening meetings, conducted by the members of the Commission, and then send out a survey to the general public. The plan is in March to hold open forums, April send out the survey from the information, May analyze the results and formulate the Master Plan and June and July have it on the Board of Selectmen's table.



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c) Three Rivers Park: At the Town Meeting the five-year leases were approved but the Three Rivers Park section was culled out. The Town is interested in using Three Rivers next year. Director Miller feels that the Commission needs to decide if it would be beneficial to the Town to make the lower Hollow Park irrigated as proper athletic fields as well as the Upper Hollow, for the safety of those that use it. She also said that she feels that all events should be moved to the Upper Hollow. The Parks and Recreation Commissioners discussed different ways of using the fields and facilities.

Chairman West mentioned that she spoke to Ann Astarita of the Roxbury Land Trust and she said that their pond in Roxbury is being repurposed and if the Commissioners would be interested in hearing what they are doing she would be happy to speak with them.

6) Director's Report:

a) Events: Director Miller said that the Town Tree Lighting would be on Saturday at 4:00 PM.

b) Budget: The Capital Budget has been handed in and Director Miller would be happy to provide anyone with a copy.

c) The bulk of November was taken up with raking leaves and tidying up the parks. Rocky Ridge came in and did a morning of tree trimming and the Landscapers got rid of the leaves in time for the snow and ice on Sunday. Bruce, the Park part timer, is now finished for the season and Director Miller said that the department would miss him.

d) Winter Programs: The programs are all set.

Director Miller spoke to Rudy Mazarusky at Voices and they will no longer be able to do publicity for Parks and Recreation programs for free and would like \$995.00 to put in the latest information. It was decided to put the information on the website and notices in different places in town and skip the Voices.

e) Fall Programs are wrapping up. Men's basketball has been cancelled until the New Year. The Region 14 Safety Committee has asked that the Parks and Rec Department have someone there to oversee the program each week as there was an incident on November 18th. Director Miller is working with the school to have three people, who are frequently at the games, there to share the responsibility. She is also going to ask for a nominal \$5 fee for the season to participate so there will be registrations and everyone will know who is attending the games and if they are from Woodbury/Bethlehem.

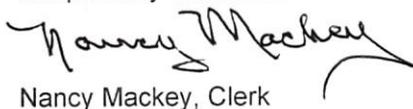
f) Biddy Ball: The program will be starting on Saturday December 7th so they are able to get eight weeks in without the worry of the weather. The numbers are up. Last year a total of fifty-three and this year seventy-seven. boys' team.

g) Mighty Ball: There has been a decline in this sport. This year there will be no 7 & 8th grade teams.

7) Correspondence: Director Miller read a memo from the Commission to Board of Selectmen saying that the Parks and Recreation plan that was approved in 2018 by the Selectmen be used.

8) Adjournment: Alternate Moran made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission at 8:10 PM and Alternate Ecsedy seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted


Nancy Mackey, Clerk

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT

This 9th day of Dec 2019
at 8:10 o'clock A M
Suzanne O'Brien
Town Clerk