

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
April 8, 2015**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 in the lower level conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT.

ATTENDANCE: .....Lou Casinghino, Chairman  
.....Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman  
.....Kerri Milne, Clerk  
.....Leeayn Burke  
.....Brian Casinghino  
.....Amy Egan

ABSENT .....David Rusnock  
.....Bill Clark  
.....Gerry Crane

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:.....Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

**MINUTES:** Cindy made a motion to accept the minutes. Brian seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PROGRAM REPORTS:** Wendy added the following to program reports. Wendy reviewed a workshop (held last Thursday) which was presented by Mr. Mark Fenton, consultant and working with the health department. Mr. Fenton is a nationally known expert on health, fitness and nutrition. Wendy, Patrick McMahon, Economic Development Director, Bill Hawkins, Town Planner and Mike Corona, health department, took Mark for a tour of the town last Tuesday. This allowed Mark to get an idea of what is working and what could be improved or created to achieve the goal of a community which is proactive to a healthy lifestyle. Wendy thanked Amy for attending and asked for her view of the meeting. The commission discussed the workshop and if and how some of the ideas presented at the workshop could be implemented.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Bridge Street School - update:** Wendy said that a public forum was held last Thursday and 40 to 50 people attended. Krystal Holmes and Beth Chafetz were presenters along with John Ireland, Architect, and Wendy. Leeyn said that it was a fantastic

presentation. Wendy said that another public forum will be held this coming Saturday. Cindy said that we should get an answer from the Board of Finance on Monday as to whether or not they will approve the bonding for the project. Leeayn said that Krystal discussed the bonding and how it would affect taxes and made it clear that if this bond is accepted we can also bond other projects. The commission discussed the project in regard to financing and bonding.

**Sports Programs – sub committee update:** Cindy said that she has tried to contact individuals from the soccer group but has not had any response. Since soccer season is starting soon Cindy is hopeful that she will be able to contact them or they will contact her.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Meeting Attendance:** Cindy said that Wendy contacted her peers in other towns to find out if they have attendance policies. After reviewing the policies for the towns that do have them, Cindy felt that a policy of attending 9 meetings out of the year would be appropriate. Lou said that he was not comfortable with a mandatory policy. Lou cited a situation with a former commission member who was very productive and helpful to the commission. This member was unable to attend several meetings and if a policy was in force it would have been difficult. Also discussed was that some Commissioners may miss meetings as they coach teams for Parks & Recreation programs and this would not be fair to these individuals. Lou said that as chairman he would be happy to address this issue with potential commission members and if a problem occurs with a current commission member, he would be happy to talk with them. The commission discussed the issue in detail and decided not to enact a written policy.

Cindy said that Cindy Fisher had a conversation with a board of education member about situations we have with school use. Cindy said she appreciated that.

Brian asked about evaluations and whether they are returned to the office. The commission discussed how best to get evaluations to parents and how best to get parents to fill them out. Consensus was that giving the parents the form with pencil at beginning of last game/practice and collecting them at end of session is the best way.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Kerri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for  
Kerri Milne, Clerk