

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
July 13, 2016**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 2016 in the upper level conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT.

ATTENDANCE: .....Lou Casinghino, Chairman  
.....Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman  
.....Jay Bombard  
.....Leeayn Burke  
.....Brian Casinghino  
.....Amy Egan  
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT: .....Kerri Milne, Clerk  
.....Scott Tobey

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

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

**MINUTES:** No meeting in June.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Wendy said that the Selectmen have reappointed Scott Tobey, Brian Casinghino, Amy Egan and Dave Rusnock. Wendy reminded them that they need to go to the Town Clerk's office to be sworn in.

**PROGRAM REPORTS:** No comments

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Babbs Update:** Wendy reviewed what has been done to the Babbs Beach area in addition to the clean-up. There has been landscaping, plantings, there will be a paved access/handicapped parking area with a gate and the walkway to the beach will have terraced steps so it will be easier to get down to the beach.

The Southwick Police dive team swam the water area to locate any debris that may be dangerous. They couldn't use their hands to get into the muck and there still may be other debris in the area (ie. broken glass). It was suggested for people to wear water shoes. The Southwick dive team said they would come out again to help us put the water lines out.

Wendy said she is in the process of purchasing a shed for the beach area for lifeguard rescue equipment. An additional shed which will be used on the upper area for monitors to collect money will be purchased at a later date.

Wendy discussed signs that will be needed for the beach. The commission discussed some of the questions that might be asked and the fact that this will be an ongoing situation. Wendy said that our insurance company has items that should be posted. The commission discussed this issue and the many signs that will be posted.

The department is still recruiting lifeguards. Sunrise Day Camp has lifeguards but Wendy has not been able to obtain guards for Babbs. Wendy has tried several different avenues to recruit lifeguards and she has reached out to other towns who also share this difficulty. The commission discussed reasons why lifeguards are so hard to find and why youths are not interested in this position.

**Bridge Street Community Center Update:** The abatement cost was discussed. The 3 proposals all came in between \$100,000 and \$300,000 not the \$2 million dollar estimate that was originally put out.

**a) 501c3 update:** Brian said the articles of incorporation are filed with the assistance of Beth Manouse from Victoria Spellman's Office. There are seven directors and Brian said that once September comes things will get moving.

**Summer Camps & Programs:** Brian said the basketball program is going well. Brian asked for a sign to be placed on the court to let people know when the Parks and Rec program is held on the court.

Wendy reviewed the camps that are going on. There are 3 ESY children who are attending Sunrise & Tween Camp and they are doing well. The ESY children who are attending Kid's Korner are only there for one hour a day. There are 11 children attending with 11 paras. Wendy is working with the school staff to see if fewer paras can be used as needed so there aren't so many adults. The commission discussed the communication between the school and our department.

Wendy said that the school has a grant with Creative Interventions and they gave training to our staff on ways to work with special needs individuals. They will be providing a one hour training class to the soccer coaches at our August coaches' meeting, and other coaches from various sports are invited. Wendy said that if any commission members would like to stop at the camps please feel free to do so but introduce yourself to staff so they know who you are.

**Elections:** Brian said that Kerri's term is ended and she will not be continuing. Lou said the Democratic Party is looking for someone to replace her.

Lou asked for nominations.

Brian made a motion to have Lou Casinghino serve as chairman, Cindy Nicholson serve as vice-chair and Leeayn Burke serve as clerk. Lou asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Dave seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Fall Soccer:** Wendy said that the department is in the process of taking registrations. Wendy, Cindy Fisher, Cindy Nicholson and Dave Rusnock met with Dan Ledger, parent volunteer, to review this year's program. Dan helped with the program last year and will do the same this year. Wendy reported that it was decided to have groups of 3 v 3 for all grades this year so children will have more play time. Since it's hard to get enough coaches a new approach will be tried this year. The program will have one coach per team but allow for coaches to practice together on the same nights. This has been posted and an email was sent to previous coaches making them aware of this. Wendy discussed an incentive for coaches who coach the entire season. A credit will be given for a future sports program within the year.

The group will continue to meet and plan for the program. The highway department will begin to set up fields in August.

**Road Race:** Wendy said that the program is growing and she would like help recruiting volunteers. Flyers were handed out to post around town for additional publicity. She also asked the commission members to each get a commitment of a prize donation for the races.

The course for the 5K race has been changed slightly. The race course has been measured and will no longer go through the cemetery. The start and finish lines are the same for both the 5K & 10K, and the timer is the same as last year.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Cindy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for  
Leeayn Burke, Clerk