

Approved 1/23/07  
HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION  
MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 9, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm.

**Attendance:** Chris McDonald, Huck House and Mark Goossens. Larry Forrest arrived at 7:34pm. Also in attendance were Sue Rauscher, Mark Feeney, Beth DeSousa and Dave Avery.

**Minutes:** The minutes from December 26, 2006 were read. Mark made a motion to accept the minutes from December 26, 2006 as read. Huck seconded. All in favor and so voted. 3-0

**Bills:** Reviewed and paid.

**Spray Park:** Sue spoke with Pappelardo Fence Company about making alterations to the existing fence that is around the spray park. They would like to cut the fence down to four feet and put a cap rail on it along the pavilion and up in front of the spring animals on the playground. This would make the fence more appealing and does not allow for motorized vehicles to enter the spray park area only foot traffic. The fence in front of the bathrooms will be reconfigured. There will be an entrance to the spray park area from the playground area, the pavilion and the bathrooms. The entrances will have either a pole or a cattle gate to prevent motorized vehicles from entering. Dave Avery presented a landscaping plan. He chose non-evasive plants that do not attract deer, minimal bees and are low maintenance. Grass will also be planted. The Garden Club will possibly donate some plants. Two walkways will also be added, one from the pavilion and one from the playground. A volunteer will do the walkways. There will be an occupancy sensor on the light on the pole. The light will come on if anyone is on the cement pad at night. Huck had a concern about skateboards on the cement pad. All vandalism cannot be stopped but there will be preventative measures taken. Huck made a motion to accept the projected plan as presented. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Sue asked if she could remove the spring animals from the playground. The Board will get back to her on that. An electrical wire to the pavilion was dug up and cut by mistake when the construction was going on. It will be repaired. The Board would like to have a special spray park meeting to discuss the details of the spring opening. Sue was invited and agreed to sit in. Sue suggested putting in a swing gate or something like that to prevent traffic from using the road to the RAH building if the snack bar will be there. She is afraid that children may be running back and forth over there to get to the snack bar from the spray park.

**Spring Soccer:** The girls U11 team is full. The boys U12 team is still waiting for a couple of players. Two more girls have been added to the team. The coach, Mike Weisse, has been making calls to see if anyone else is interested in signing up.

**Gold Star Soccer:** We had a request from Brent Dillard from Gold Star Soccer to use the fields and bathrooms at TWB again this summer for a one week soccer camp session. Larry made a motion to allow Gold Star Soccer to run a soccer camp at TWB for one week for \$200. Huck seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

**Old Business:** Budget-Larry was able to get an estimate on the RAH building roof. A new roof is needed. The roof is completely shot. Larry will ask the roofer to hold the figure until 6/30/07. He will also find out specifics about the warranty. The budget request was written up. Line item 30.1 Salaries we will ask to fully fund the clerk position at 16 hours per week. Line item 30.2 Operating Expenses we will ask for 2.5% over fiscal year 2007. Line item 30.3 Capital Improvements we will ask for payment of a new roof on the RAH building.

Special Spray Park Meeting-Tentatively scheduled for January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Board members will check their calendars to see if this is possible. Sue Rauscher and Chief Farnsworth would also be invited.

**New Business:** The Friends of the Library asked if a sponsor was needed for the Saturday movie night. The Board wasn't sure what they were looking to do and would like more information.

Pre-kindergarten sports-The question has come up a few times whether or not a child who is not in kindergarten yet would be allowed to sign up for a sport. The Board will decide on an individual basis when a request comes in.

SORI Checks-The Board currently requires CORI checks on all coaches and assistant coaches for every sport. The question came up as to whether or not we should also be doing SORI checks. Larry will ask Chief Farnsworth for more information on SORIs.

Baseball-Mark will meet with John to get baseball going.

CPA Meeting-Chris attended the CPA meeting on January 9, 2007. Some items discussed were the request for a \$2500 grant to fix the trails on Minnechaug Mountain which were damaged during the October 2005 flood. Also, \$650,000 was requested to purchase 76 acres of land on South Road. The land would be split into three sections. There is currently a house and barn on a portion of the land. Only one home would be allowed to be built. This would preserve open space for the town.

Mark made a motion to adjourn at 9:32pm. Huck seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Next meeting: January 23, 2007 at 7pm.