

**Town of Portland
Parks & Recreation Commission
January 13, 2009 Minutes**

Members Present: Chairman Ralph Zampano, Tom Ladny, Rob Edwards, Ellen Kelley, Steve Steinkamp, Hilary Phelps

Town Administration; Sean Dwyer, Parks and Recreation Director and Carl Johnson Maintenance Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Zampano called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

2. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Alternate Hilary Phelps was appointed to fill in for Peter Zaborowski.
Alternate Ellen Kelley was appointed to fill in for Robert Edwards.

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

A motion was made by Steve Steinkamp and seconded by Tom Ladny to approve tonight's amended agenda. All ayes. Motion passed.

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF December 8, 2008 MINUTES

Ralph Zampano recommended that under Old Business; Before/After School Programs that the wording should be changed to read; "Essentially this program is a self sustaining program and is temporarily being overseen by the Youth Services Department."

Ellen Kelly made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2008 minutes with the recommended wording change in the Before/After School Program. Hillary Phelps seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

5. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

Ralph Zampano mentioned that a group of parents from Kids Blast meet on Saturday, January 10th and has developed a 16 pages document with concerns and recommendations. They should be delivering the document to Sean Dwyer, Parks and Recreation Director

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

Park & Recreation Director Sean Dwyer was introduced to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commission Goals:

Gildersleeve School Property:

Long Term Goal: To design, redevelop, and enhance the property so the entire property can be used. This will include 19 new parking spaces, a baseball field in the upper section and a soccer field on the lower section.

Short Term Goal: To grade upper area for a U 10 soccer field. To develop a design and cost estimate to correct the present drainage issues

Portland Riverfront Park:

Long Term Goal: Tabled

Short Term Goal: For the Parks and Recreation Department to continue to provide support; such as recreation programs and community projects.

Rails to Trails (Airline Trail)

Long Term Goal: Connect the trail to East Hampton

Short Term Goal: Need to acquire land for CLP and Private Owners through the Town's Planning and Conservation Office.

The Goodrich Property:

Long Term Goal: To Design and Build a full functional Complex.

Short Term Goal: Make sure the turning of the soil is working, continue testing, and to decide on what facilities will be built at the complex.

School Properties:

Long Term Goal: To have Middlesex Avenue, Gildersleeve, and Valley View fields become park property.

Short Term Goals: To research the value to have Middlesex Avenue, Gildersleeve, and Valley View Fields come under parks. To still look into having Middlesex Avenue Fields to go under Parks.

Youth Basketball:

Long Term Goal: To develop a concrete program for youth grades K – 8. The program will be for Boys and Girls and will focus on teaching basketball skills, learning an understanding of how to play the game, physical exercise, and fun. There will be a mission statement and goals that best fits the youth of Portland.

Short Term Goal: To have a successful 2008-2009 season.

Swimming Lessons:

Long Term Goal: Tabled

Short Term Goal: To partner with a local organization to provide the youth of Portland inexpensive "Learn to Swim" program.

Rehab Existing Fields:

Long Term Goal: To have plan plan ad cost estimates to rehab as many of our facilities as possible.

Short Term Goal: To rehab the Middlesex Avenue upper field and regrade the Brownstone Park Outfield.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Hillary Phelps mentioned that there will be a focus group on February 4th to discuss the Town of Portland's afterschool programs. There will be representatives for the Parks and Recreation, Youth Service, YMCA, each afterschool programs site directors (Valley View, Gildersleeve, and Brownstone), the Town's Early Childhood Coordinator, and two members of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ralph Zampano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Steinkamp seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Dwyer
Parks and Recreation Director