

**Town of Portland
Parks & Recreation Commission
March 9, 2009 Minutes**

Members Present: Chairman Ralph Zampano, Tom Ladny, Rob Edwards, Ellen Kelley, Steve Steinkamp, Peter Zaborowski

Also present: Don Weeks, Environmental Engineer and Portland Resident

Town Administration; Sean Dwyer, Parks and Recreation Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Zampano called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

2. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

No alternates.

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

Ralph Zampano requested the agenda be amended to include "review of short term goals" and "budget" under New Business. A motion was made by Ellen Kelley to accept the agenda as amended. Steve Steinkamp seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2009 MEETING

Ralph Zampano requested several changes to the February 9th minutes:

- Spell check - Regarding vs. regrading – page 1
- 3rd paragraph, page 2 should include Carl to provide coaches with training on field preparation.
- Under New Business – Ingersoll, High School and Brownstone Intermediate Schools will also be ready.

Rob Edwards made a motion to accept minutes as amended and Pete Zaborowski seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

5. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

No correspondence and/or communication.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

Pavilion Update at the Riverfront – Sean reported that he's had a request to rent the Gildersleeve Pavilion. Currently, we're not looking to charge but Ellen Kelley requested clarification regarding liability issues at the site. Sean is attending a meeting on 3/17 and will discuss and report back.

After School Focus Group Meeting – Per the meeting that Sean, Hillary and Ellen attended, KidsBlast and Gildersleeve Programs will be under Youth and Family and the vacation programming will be under Parks & Recreation i.e., SkyHawks, Bingo, Bronx Zoo. Mary Pont is still working on rate schedules and policy issues.

Rails to Trails – Dean attended a meeting with Deanna Rhodes and Laurie Gianotti from the State of CT regarding the above. There is definite interest at the Town and State level. Some of the issues are that most of the land is privately owned and some of the trail is not longer there. The trail could however circle back up and head through Portland and South Glastonbury to the ferry. Easements are also a possibility here. Deanna is heading this project.

Goodrich Property – Don Weeks spoke regarding processes of site investigation and remediation. He suggested a soil management plan be instituted in order to address the historical agricultural insecticide contaminations at the site. Don presented three options to the Commission:

- Enter into a voluntary DEP program
- Do nothing
- Brownfield development – managing the soil by putting contaminated soil under a planned building or parking lot.

Don felt the third option was our best option at this point but also suggested baseline testing of the hot spots. Direct Exposure Criteria is also important here as the parcel is in a residential area. The State looks at the human health and environment issues and how they're being addressed. DEP has remediation regulations that are currently being revised. Documentation of this undertaking will be huge. Deep turning/tilling will assist with the dilution process. Dick Gotta is currently tilling the property twice a year. There is definitely direct exposure at the piece and the pollutant mobility from rain leeching is another issue that needs to be addressed.

Park Improvements – Bid going out on the 16th for Middlesex Avenue Upper area and Nolan Field. Sean is tentatively looking at 4/15 & 5/15 to start Upper Middlesex and 8/15 to 9/15 for Nolan Field. Old capital monies are in the place for the above projects.

Sean/Carl Johnson are currently getting prices for the wooden guardrail and gate at Bransfield.

Spring Field Schedule – Open Space on Middlesex Avenue Ext. and Brazos Drive will hopefully be a practice facility on line for this Spring. May have to add a second gate because of the pumphouse and also signage for the parking area.

8. NEW BUSINESS

5K Road Race – Scheduled for 8/14/09 at 6 PM. Last years' issues included police coverage and traffic issues. Sean suggested signage a couple of weeks in advance to make residents aware of the upcoming race. Sean will meet with the Police Department and report back at the next meeting.

Easter Egg Hunt – Scheduled for April 4th @ 10 AM @ Valley View School. Ellen Kelley suggested having a backup supply of candy. Set up at 8:30 AM. Rain date is Sunday, 4/5.

Budget – Sean reported that the Parks and Recreation budget will maintain the budget similar to 2008-2009.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Tom Ladny made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pete Zaborowski seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, APRIL 20th

Respectfully submitted,

Laura S. Manager
Recording Secretary