

**Town of Wilmington
Recreation Commission
Minutes of April 7, 2016 Meeting**

Members Present: Charlie Biondo, Mike Burns, Sheila Burke, Mark Kennedy, Laurie Robarge and Deborah Cipriani, Director

Guests Present: Fred Hogan, Linda Kanter and Chris Sullivan

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

The March 3, 2016 meeting minutes were read and unanimously accepted on a motion by Charlie Biondo and seconded by Mark Kennedy.

Director Cipriani's Report:

Proposed rules and regulations for the new Dog Park were reviewed and edited. Rules will be separated into two sections, one regarding dog issues and the other regarding the dog handlers. There was discussion regarding the approximate opening date of the park. Best estimate at this time would be late May.

Debbie sat in on a session at the MRPA Conference regarding Group Hiring. This process was used to weed out those who weren't truly vested in the job. Applicants were required to wear sneakers and bring to the interview a picture of themselves, a short game, a long game, a skit and/or joke. Names would be chosen randomly to perform/teach two of the categories. This would show how well they could lead and teach an activity to others and view them in action. All staff were required to participate and would be judged the same. This process eliminates the staff from getting to comfortable and taking the job for granted and viewing their competition.

The Recreation Department's policy is to only send out email blasts when there is an important change or notification necessary to avoid "email fatigue". At the conference it was learned that we should be sending out more emails, not less. People are very receptive to receiving multiple emails and you want to keep reminding residents of all you offer.

The ground breaking for Yentile Farm was on March 29. The project is underway, the foundation has been removed and a lot of ground work is being done.

Saturday, March 26 was a beautiful day for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The weather was nice and the event was well attended.

All programs are going well so far.

The Summer Sizzle cooking program for students entering grades 3 – 8 has had an overwhelming response and a second session has been added.

The May newsletter will include the 2016 – 2017 Broadway in Boston series.

New Business:

Playground Program registration is on Monday, April 11 at 7:30 a.m. Police will be on hand as large crowds are expected again this year.

Registration for the Tiny Tots/Kids Club Program is on Wednesday, April 13 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Online registration will become available at 8:00 p.m. the same evening.

The Hawaii pre-trip meeting will be held on April 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Commission appointment will be made in May for Mark Kennedy's vacancy. Elections for officers will be made once the vacancy has been filled.

Discussions:

The Annual Town Meeting will be held Saturday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Bernie McNally's birthday celebration is to be held on Friday, April 8 in the Town Hall Auditorium. Everyone is invited to stop by and wish Bernie a Happy 50th Birthday!

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Sheila Burke at 6:02 p.m. Motion was seconded by Charlie Biondo.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Laurie Robarge
Commissioner