

Town of Wilmington
Recreation Commission
Minutes of September 3, 2015 meeting

Members Present: Charlie Biondo, Shelia Burke, Michael Burns, Laurie Robarge & Director, Deborah Cipriani

Members Absent: Mark Kennedy

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

The June 4, 2015 meeting minutes were read and unanimously accepted on a motion by Laurie Robarge and seconded by Charlie Biondo.

Director Cipriani's Report:

Canobie Lake Park, Six Flags and Water Country tickets all sold out this year.

A full bus was sent into the Opera House on June 25 for the Newsies Theatre trip.

The Recreation Department reduced the number of Red Sox tickets purchased this year due to lower interest in the games. The games on June 12 and July 31 both sold out of the thirty tickets purchased.

A repeat trip to Cabbage Island and Boothbay Harbor was held on July 26 and was once again sold out. A great time was had by all as the rain basically held off except when the group was on the bus.

A great number of people tuned out for Police Beach Day held at Silver Lake on Thursday, August 6. The food was terrific and a fun time was held by all that attended.

To meet the demand for the Kinky Boots Theatre trip a second date was added. Full buses were sent into the Opera House on August 13 and August 19. The group enjoyed great seats and a terrific show.

Many families, some with teenage children and others with adult children, attended the Quebec City trip. It was nice to see such a varied group together. The hotel accommodations and sightseeing features were fantastic.

Day and evening tennis lessons run by AG Management all went well. All abilities from ages 4 – 74 were represented.

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There is increased participation this year in the Friday Night Lights program. So far to date there are 176 students registered while last year we ended the season with 99. The turf field at WHS is being used for the program this year.

A fundraising group has been established for the Yentile Farm Project. A meeting with D.P.W. is being put together to discuss scheduling for the turf field. It is unclear as to who will be responsible for operating the concession stand.

On June 6, the annual Fishing Derby was held at Silver Lake. It was a beautiful day and many families enjoyed this great multigenerational program.

The Recreation Department is currently gathering information regarding rules and regulations for area Dog Parks. Questions/concerns regarding separate areas for large and small dogs have been raised.

New Business:

The Fall Edition of Recreation Matters was released on August 28.

Online registration began for youth and adult programs on August 28 and has been very well received. Credit and debit cards are now acceptable forms of payment whether registering online or in person.

The performers for this summer's Concerts on the Common series were fantastic. One concert was rescheduled to the following evening due to the strong threat of rain, thunder and lightening.

The Tiny Tots/Kids Club Program went smoothly this summer.

Practices and protocol for the Playground Program were discussed. The Recreation Department will be looking into the possibility of adding air conditioners in some of the rooms utilized for the program.

There will be a new playground erected at Silver Lake at the end of September. Where Angels Play is dedicating the playground in honor of Sean Collier. The playground will be completed and a ceremony held by month's end.

Overall the summer went well at Silver Lake. Some beachgoers are still upset that non-residents need to pay a \$10 daily fee. We have received a lot of positive feedback from happy Wilmington residents regarding the beach itself.

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Adult Paddle Boarding and Adventure Kids Kayaking were two new programs held at Silver Lake over the summer. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful natural resource in which we can offer these programs.

The Hawaii trip scheduled for May 19 – 28, 2016 currently has 117 registered. A maximum of 140 participants can be accommodated.

Discussion/Questions:

The School Department is updating their permitting process and fee schedule. It is uncertain what changes will apply to the Recreation Department.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Sheila Burke, seconded by Mike Burns and the meeting ended at 6:22 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2015.

Humbly Submitted,

Laurie Robarge