

**Town of Wilmington
Recreation Commission
Minutes of September 4, 2014 Meeting**

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

Member Absent: Sheila Burke

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

The June 5, 2014 meeting minutes were read and unanimously accepted on a motion by Charlie Biondo and seconded by Mark Kennedy.

Director Cipriani's report:

Seventy-one participants attended the Annual Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 7. It was a beautiful day and as the day went on many arrived to swim and enjoy the beach. Thought will be given to marking off an area to prevent any injuries or perhaps just prohibiting fishing within the roped off area.

Knucklebones "Wheels" Micro Sports was a new program for ages 2 – 5 which was highly recommended but was a disappointment. The program was not up the Recreation Department standards and several parents called to complain. The company apologized for the problems and added an additional week to the program. At the completion of the program the company authorized the Recreation Department to give full refunds to all participants.

A Savvy Social Security Planning Workshop was held in partnership with the Wilmington Memorial Library on June 19. On-line registration is definitely needed for the Recreation Department as only 9 registered here while 40 registered on-line at the library.

A repeat trip was run to Cabbage Island and Boothbay Harbor on June 22. Participants had a great day enjoying an awesome clambake, with huge portions, and a narrated boat cruise. We will most likely be looking to run the program again next year.

A few emergency situations occurred at the Playground Program but were handled very swiftly and professionally by the staff. Two of the participants had fainted in the extremely hot and humid weather.

Boston Red Sox tickets sales were very slow this year. Sixty tickets were purchased for three different games. The Recreation Department listed the tickets on Craig's List and Face Book in an attempt to boost sales. Luckily we were able to sell out two games and had just two unsold tickets for the other game.

The staff at AG Tennis Management did a great job with teaching the summer tennis lessons. Very positive feedback was received and many parents came back in to register their child for an additional session.

Ticket sales for Water Country were down this summer as it was much cooler than last year. This year 122 tickets were sold versus close to 300 sold in years past.

Police Beach Day on August 7 was a great success. Even though the Playground Program ended prior to Police Beach Day the number of attendees was very good.

New Business:

The new 8 day/6 night's trip to the Azores in April, 2015 has over 60 people already registered.

The next Yentile Farm Committee meeting will be held at the Wilmington Memorial Library on September 9 at 6:00 p.m. The third Public Forum will be held on Thursday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School. Discussion will continue about what the park should offer. The Commission is interested in knowing what type of support and responsibilities the Recreation Department will be asked to provide.

The Concerts on the Common were very well attended. Radio Waves was a new offering this summer which received mixed reactions from the seniors as they didn't recognize many of the current songs. Other performances included Cactus Gang, The Reminisants and Mark Shelton.

It was a great summer at Silver Lake with all the new rules and fee structure in place. Many residents attending the beach commented on how well the beach looked and what an enjoyable time they had. There were a couple glitches with the gates remaining locked after 9:00 a.m. and it took a little while for patrons to get accustomed to the carry-in, carry-out trash rule in effect. Complaints regarding the daily fee, no season passes and friends and family of Wilmington residents having to pay the daily fee were responded to by the Recreation Department. The increased Police presence at Silver Lake was very well received. On several occasions the police drove to the beach to be sure the staff was aware of a tornado warning or severe weather conditions heading their way. The extra drive bys provided additional reassurance to the staff and patrons alike.

Registration for the new SNL "Saturday Night Lights" Flag Football League ended on August 14. The leagues for Grades 1 – 3 and Grades 4 – 5 will be running. The league for Grades 6 – 8 was canceled due to low enrollment. Students in Grade 6 were given the option to play in the Grades 4 – 5 league if desired. The group may be looking for a generator for the disc jockey if another power source is not available.

A new BOKS "Build Our Kids Success" program has been added this fall at the Woburn Street School in addition to those offered at the Shawsheen and Boutwell School.

The Recreation Department has recently funded several Capital Projects including a new fence along Silver Lake (Grove Avenue), resurfacing of the North Intermediate basketball/tennis courts and the resurfacing of the Shawsheen basketball/tennis courts.

Discussions:

On-line registration must be pursued as so many residents are inquiring about it along with the opportunity of paying for programs by credit card.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Charlie Biondo at 6:04 p.m. Motion was seconded by Mark Kennedy.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Laurie Robarge
Commissioner