

## **New Hartford Recreation Commission**

### **Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 5, 2014**

**Call to Order:** 7:03 pm

**Members Present:** Don Govotski, Joe Petrarca, Tim Calder, Sally O'Neill and Bob Martin

**Members Absent:** Steve Tuxbury and Ed Smith

**Others Present:** Recreation Director Christy Tellier, First Selectman Dan Jerram, Maria Moore and Brant Keller

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a. June 4, 2014 Regular Meeting – Minutes were tabled.
- b. July 17, 2014 Special Meeting – Don made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2014 meeting. Joe 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in favor. Motion passes.
- c. October 1, 2014 Regular Meeting – Don made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2014 meeting. Joe 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in favor. Motion passes.

#### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Maria Moore addressed the commission regarding a situation that occurred at Brodie South. Two women have been training dogs at the field and she felt intimidated when she stopped to talk to them. The training appears to be aggressive police dog type training. There was discussion about a business running unauthorized activities at the parks. Christy stated she was just made aware of the situation, and the local police and Animal Control have already been notified. Specific signage needs to be in place in order to enforce certain laws. There was discussion about being more stringent on what is allowed in the parks, signage, and creating more awareness of park rules.

**Tim made a motion** to purchase and place appropriate signage at all town parks, to include all pets must be on a leash, cleaning up after pets, and no commercial activities without town approval. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in favor. Motion passes.

#### **WOLVERINES FOOTBALL, BRANT KELLER – ANTOLINI FIELD:**

Brant recapped the Wolverines' season. They had the last game this past week, 2 teams went to the championship games. Cheerleaders placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the CTYFL competition and are going to states. Success and growth of the program is due to the dedication of parents and coaches. The Antolini field is working well – it is convenient and they are still waiting to make it “home”. The playing conditions of the field, however, are a concern due to the dust and children with asthma and the program would like to assist in making improvements prior to next season.

Brant stated he has information about seeding and hydroseeding, but would like to know who to contact regarding improvements – if it is the town, the Board of Ed, etc. There was further discussion between Brant and the commission regarding the field, the lack of a water source, fertilization, what is acceptable, etc. Grass will never take root substantially if there is no water source. Tim asked if there had been any injuries specific to the condition of the field. Brant stated he had addressed concerns in July. Joe indicated there had been ankle injuries due to turf fail and twisted ankles. Seeding and proper hydration would rectify those issues. Sally asked where the responsibility for the field fell – the town or the school. Dan stated that it is a gray area – the town took on the project and has been responsible for the site plan thus far. Zoning wants to see an irrigation system, and the site plan mandates a softball field will need to be constructed. The Board of Ed has expressed a need for a paved area in the space and a site plan adjustment will be needed to accommodate the requests. Dan stated he needs to research the feasibility of a well and what would be involved.

## **PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

### **Boat Moorings – Allowed dates of storage**

The water in West Hill Lake is lowered by October 15 each year. Our mooring forms state boats must be removed prior to November 1 and due to the lowering and lack of rain, a pontoon boat had been stranded on some rocks. There was discussion regarding changing the date for which the boats needed to be removed. Tim was concerned that people would then expect lower fees. It was discussed further and agreed that a disclaimer should just be added to the rental agreement rather than shortening the season.

**Tim made a motion** to add the following disclaimer to the mooring agreement:  
Check your boat regularly. The town is not liable for the condition of your boat. Please be advised the lake draw down begins in October and is completed by 10/15 each year.  
Joe 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in favor, motion passes.

### **Berkshire Hall Rental Policies**

Recent usage of Berkshire Hall to non-profit organizations has required extra clean up and repair to the facility. We currently do not charge non-profits for usage. It was discussed that a deposit be made upfront by the non-profits and once the hall is inspected, the deposit can be returned. If clean up or damage has been incurred, the entire deposit will then be forfeited. A line that says “Non Profits – No Rental Fee - \$300 Security Deposit Required”

**Tim made a motion** to require a security deposit from non-profits which will be held until after inspection of the hall. Any damage or clean up will result in forfeiture of the entire deposit. A rental fee will not be charged. Don 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in favor, motion passes.

### **Field Use at Brown’s – Allowed dates**

Brown’s Corner used to be utilized only through the first weekend in November, around November 1. This allows for time for the bathrooms to be winterized and closed for the season. Games have begun extending further into the month. It was agreed that the sports

programs would be notified of the 11/1 goal date for closing, and any usage after that date would require them to rent port a potties.

**REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:**

Movie Night – Friday, October 10 – approximately 30 people attended, bonfire on the field, plywood screen, popcorn. Was a fun initial event.

Fall Fun Day – Saturday, October 18 – Approximately 25 kids, 20 adults, made crafts at town hall, kids trick or treated at downtown businesses. Went well, would like to grow the event for next year.

A discussion was had about the flyer and getting information out to residents. Currently we've used the school Friday folder, the email blast capability through myrec, and postings on the website. The idea of mailing postcards every 3 months and posting schedules at town hall and libraries were ideas in getting information out there.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW:**

Financial reports were reviewed. Reports from Annie as well as a new report with class break down from myrec software was provided.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

A brief discussion of the Brodie House. Various town committees and organizations have been asked for input regarding value and historical value. The town historian has indicated there is no historical value of the building.

Dan gave each commission member a town hat as a thank you for volunteering.

**Tim Calder made a motion** to adjourn at 8:28, seconded by Joe Petrarca. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christy Tellier  
Recreation Director