

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes October 28, 2008

A meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee was called to order on October 28, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in Sherrillbrook Park. Those present were: Bill Bonsted, Omar Massoud, John Pryor, Peggy Brady, John D'Amore, Deanne Balutis, Marilynn Montesano, and Mike Jeffery.

Mike Jeffery began the meeting by reviewing summer recreation attendance. Playground registration was unlimited, additional staff was added, and each playground was broken up by grade K-3, and 4-6. For next year Mike Jeffery would like to possibly use the back of Perry Jr. High, having two different sites for Higby Road, because of large attendance. The Recreation Center could be split up between the front and the back area. Mike Jeffery asked the committee if they have any ideas to contact him. He then discussed the opening of the splash pad. The average attendance was forty per day. On the busiest day there were 110. The maximum capacity is 230. The summer park staff each had one week to be an attendant at the splash pad. There was no fee.

Mike Jeffery then began a discussion on the Rayhill Trail parking lot. BOCES donated the property; the Highway Department did all the clearing and paving. The Kiwanis Club adopted the trail from the parking lot to the Whitestown line. They will be going out three times a year picking up litter. Signs will be put up to let the public know when the geese are molting and cannot fly, and to be aware. Articles will also be put in the Town Crier educating the public about the geese.

Mike Jeffery then discussed the Recreation Center Capital Project. The lighting project and the dasher board project are complete, and on budget. The furnaces are currently being installed. It will cost approximately an additional \$8,000 due to needing more ductwork. New Hartford Youth Hockey donated both the new scoreboards.

Mike Jeffery then stated the dog park parking lot is almost complete. It will be open in the spring.

At the Veterans Memorial, they could not get a bulldozer in for the fountain. The highway department will come in with a gradall when they have time to clear the area, then it will be installed. There is a problem with the light bulbs shorting out at the Veterans Memorial. We are currently trying out a different system and bulbs, which seem to be working.

A discussion then began on the town's property located in New York Mills behind McCraith Beverage. Mike Jeffery stated that a meeting was held to identify projects that could be worked on together with the town, school, parks, and fire department. As a result, a presentation was made to the New York Mills Fire Department regarding access to the town's property. After discussing the plan the department has indicated in writing that it was in favor of granting an access agreement to the property. An access agreement is currently being structured by representatives from the town and New York Mills Fire Department. Mike Jeffery stated, that in regards to the Rayhill Trail extension, they are working with the state, and going through the park would be an alternate route for the extension. McCraith will also grant an easement. The Con Med end of the site will be cleared for a drive through. The easements will be secured in January, and a construction committee will be formed. The grant application will be completed in the spring of 2009. Construction could begin in 2010.

Mike Jeffery then discussed the Higby Road Park. Twenty-two acres are available below Perry Jr. High School. The cost is \$250,000, and the New Hartford school foundation has raised \$130,000 in donations. The goal right now is to raise money and secure the property to develop in the future. They may name fields & trails after the person making the donation toward it. The town supports the project in principle and will do whatever it can to help, but they have not committed anything because they do not own it.

Mike Jeffery then reviewed the 2009 budget. He stated the only significant item is the Rec Center roof. The main roof is almost 30 years old. It is a \$155,000 item. It was taken out of the budget request to possibly be a bond item. The parks budget request has a 1% increase. The Rec Center budget request is a 1½% increase. All others range from a 2% decrease to a 1% increase. There is a proposed increase of \$10 in fees for the playground program and pools.

The committee was advised that the Veterans Memorial ceremony would be held on November 11th at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned a 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Owens, Secretary