

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes**  
**November 14, 2006**

A meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee was called to order on November 14, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Sherrillbrook Park. Those present were: Bill Bonsted Omar Massoud, John Pryor, Lorraine Garfinkel, John D'Amore, Deanne Balutis, and Mike Jeffery.

Mike Jeffery began the meeting by handing out the winter flyer. He reviewed the summer playground program. Two hundred ten children were registered. People were happy with the changes, and attendance was up. Each playground had 72 people registered, but there were never 72 at the playground. If children did not attend after two weeks, the parents were called to find out if they were still interested in attending, and if they weren't they were given a 50% reimbursement, and people that were on a waiting list were offered half a program. People were concerned that we didn't continue to register more people. Mike Jeffery stated the staff would like to put the Chadwicks program at the Athletic Park, because of the splash pad they would not be able to tell who is registered, and they could possibly use Chadwicks as a field trip to use the splash pad. Mike Jeffery stated that a lot of people did not register by mail, and he anticipates that next year they will, and the program will be full by the time it starts.

Mike Jeffery then stated that at the last meeting he asked the committee to walk the back road at Sherrillbrook and get back to him at this meeting with their thoughts. John D'Amore stated he took a Holland Patent & Utica resident with him, and surveyed six other walkers, and asked them how they felt about opening the road up to vehicle traffic. All six were against it. He also stated that he would be more comfortable knowing there were no vehicles. Mike Jeffery stated he hopes to complete the dog park next year, and then they could turn the soccer field into a parking area. Bill Bonsted asked how they would use the parking area if they couldn't use the road. John D'Amore suggested building a driveway. Mike Jeffery stated he visited three dog parks. Onondaga Park had the nicest one. He then drew out for the committee where the dog park and parking area and pavilion would be. The picnic area would be a carry in site only. Omar Massoud stated the negative thing about it is that it would not be handicap accessible. Mike Jeffery stated there are other areas that are. Deanne Balutis asked if the dog park would be divided between small dogs and large dogs. Mike Jeffery stated they are generally divided into three areas, one for small, one for large, and one area is unused. The areas are rotated so lime can be put down to control disease. All three-dog parks visited stated not to get water fountains because they clog up with dirt and the dogs should not share water because of disease. Water is provided but owners bring their own dish to separate what the dogs drink. The best surface for the park would be stone dust. The parks are usually self-patrolled. Patrons turn other patrons in for not obeying the law. Proof of rabies shots and license must be shown. Mike Jeffery stated he obtained many different rules from around the country off the Internet. People will get a membership card and the card will open the gate. Ownership information and day and time visited are recorded on computer, which enables the town to tell who is in the dog park should any problems occur.

John Pryor then stated that anyone he has talked to was against opening the back road up to traffic. Mike Jeffery stated he has not had any complaints why the road was not open. John Pryor motioned to continue to eliminate cars from the back road and proceed with the alternate plan of converting the small soccer field into a parking lot to alleviate existing and future parking concerns. John D'Amore seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

Bill Bonsted then discussed the Veterans Memorial. He stated Maureen Owens redid the donor book so it was on a better quality paper, and in alphabetical order, and sent out all the thank you letters. We collected 100,000. He also recognized Brian Jenny and the parks summer crew for a tremendous job. The Mum Farm brought in \$1,800 worth of flowers, and they will donate everything in the spring. The state also donated over 100 trees. Bill Bonsted stated in the spring the fountain will be put in. If there is enough money possibly pillars with chains around it could be put in, and maybe some upgrades to parking and more flowers. Mike Jeffery stated Omar Massoud donated his time moving trees. Bill Bonsted stated there were over 500 people at the dedication.

Mike Jeffery then stated we now have a sidewalk committee, to research grants, and to develop criteria where the town gets involved in installing and maintaining sidewalks. \$150,000 is set-aside in the bond for sidewalks. Mike asked if anyone would want to be on the committee. The parks department would be handling maintenance of the sidewalks. Bill Bonsted asked if anyone contacted Whitestown. Mike Jeffery did, and stated their parks department handles maintenance. Roger Cleveland, Highway Superintendent, is head of the committee. John D'Amore stated he did work on part of Whitestown, and he volunteered to be on the committee.

Mike Jeffery then passed around information on the 2007 parks budget, and stated the parks budget is down. He discussed the bond, and one of the referendums is the lighting at the Recreation Center. There is \$92,000 is for lighting of which 56,000 is for the Recreation Center. The energy savings are estimated at 13,500 per year, which converts to a 3 1/2 year payback period. Another item in the bond is a dump truck to replace Truck #55, a 1994 dump truck, which was disabled by under body rust, and rear axle problems. The truck sold as part of the November 2005 surplus vehicle sale. Mike Jeffery stated the entire bond is on the town web site.

Mike Jeffery then passed out a news release from the New Hartford School. He is on the Triple A+ Committee on the athletic side of it. He is promoting the capital project from a parks standpoint. He then played a presentation to the committee provided by the New Hartford High School. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mike Jeffery answered a couple of questions from the committee relating to funding of the project. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Owens  
Secretary