

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes
June 23, 2009

A meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee was called to order on June 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Sherrillbrook Park. Those present were: Bill Bonsted, Omar Massoud, Lorraine Garfinkel, Peggy Brady, John D'Amore, Deanne Balutis, Marilyn Montesano, Karri Eaton, and Mike Jeffery.

Mike Jeffery began the meeting by introducing new member Karri Eaton, also, new member Sean Virkler, who was unable to attend due to work commitments.

Mike Jeffery reviewed the status of the dog run. It opened with a free trial period of one month. He stated there was a dogfight on the second day. He spoke with Sal Piazza from a training school in Herkimer who informed him of how to break up a dogfight, and gave him other information on dog safety. Mike Jeffery stated people are getting more educated and it is running better every day. We now have eighteen applications. Deanne Balutis stated she stopped at the dog run, and the only complaint was that parents were not watching their children. Mike Jeffery stated we have a handout on dog run etiquette that is given to all applicants. Mike Jeffery stated the parking lot is a big asset to the park.

Mike Jeffery then stated the pre-registration for the summer programs are over and there are 952 total applicants. He briefly reviewed the amount of registrants at each program. The playgrounds are full, and all other programs can be registered on site for late registration. Bill Bonsted asked if any fees were raised. Mike Jeffery stated the playground was raised to \$40. The pool program was raised \$5. Field user fees and pavilion fees were not raised.

Mike Jeffery then stated the Sherrillbrook Park trail renovations were underway. They are currently working on trail A. He stated we have a \$20,000 grant for the trail, which needs to be complete by July 31, 2009.

The Recreation Center roof repair and capital project are waiting for engineer's findings and what our options and anticipated costs will be.

Mike Jeffery then reviewed the Veteran's Memorial pond. He stated Rick Sherman the Highway Superintendent is going to put a temporary road in. Whitestown has offered use of their tracker machine at no charge. A resolution will be going to the board on July 8th that will be given to the state formally accepting lifetime maintenance. The project should be underway by July.

The splash pad will open June 29th with the hours of 10am to 6pm, seven days a week. One of the features was not working last year, and it has now been repaired. Groups of twenty or more must have a permit and pay a fee of \$40. New Hartford groups receive a 50% discount.

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Mike Jeffery then discussed the proposed New York Mills Fireman's Park. We are still waiting for a response from McCraith Beverage regarding easements. We applied for a member item grant for \$50,000 but it was not successful. Mike Jeffery stated we are slowly moving in the right direction.

Mike Jeffery opened the meeting for discussion. Marilyn Montesano asked about the status proposed Higby Road Park. Mike Jeffery who is on the planning committee for the proposed park stated that the property was purchased by the school foundation. At this point Mike has not been advised of any meetings relating to actual park development and believes the school is focusing its efforts on completing the current school project before moving the park project forward, other than securing the land. Mike Jeffery also indicated that his first priority is to focus on the New York Mills Park, as the town is the lead agent and property holder as it relates to park development, while the school is the property holder and lead agent on the Higby Road Park project.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Owens