

Recreation Advisory Committee

LOCATION OF MEETING: Sharon Community Center

DATE & TIME: June 25, 2015

Recreation Advisory Committee

Attendees: Gary Bluestein- Chairman, Cheryl Whiting, Steve Lesco, Margaret Marder, Amanda Levasseur - Recreation Director, Christine Kasparian - Assist. Recreation Director

Meeting called to order 7:15 p.m.

Motion made and passed to accept the minutes from the May 14, 2015.

Motion: Margaret M.

Second: Steve L.

Unanimous Vote

Presentation by Beech Tree Park - Mim Gopen:

The park was officially dedicated park in 2006. The idea of Beech Tree Park started in 2001 with a committee of all volunteers. Boy scouts, girl scouts, and high school students were eagerly on board with the creation of the new park. Nine years later, the enthusiasm has declined, and the volunteers are seeking new, excited volunteers to help out.

In years past, Mim has used fundraising and grant writing to maintain the treasury of the park. However, it has been more difficult to do so with the lack of volunteers and support.

The DPW keeps up with the grass and the leaves in years past, but due to the severity of the winter, Beech Tree Park has been overlooked. Mim is seeking an employee who can dedicate their time to the park about 10 hours a week.

During concerts, there is a courtesy shuttle provided by the Sharon Recreation Department and Sharon Council on Aging. This gives accessibility to senior citizens and families with young children. Grants are used to provide a stipend to professional bands for performing at the concerts.

Mim suggests that the Sharon Recreation Department seeks a "Friends of Beech Tree Park" ad hoc committee to ensure the future success of Beech Tree Park.

Citizen of the Year:

Margaret and Rick suggested Mim and Joe Gopen for the 2015 Citizen of the Year.

Motion to name Mim and Joe Gopen for the 2015 Citizen of the Year: Margaret
Second: Cheryl
Unanimous vote

Ecotourism Update-Cheryl:

The Ecotourism committee discussed theme and branding at their latest meeting. They also discussed the strengths of Sharon to contribute to their ecotourism message.

The committee also compared other town's ecotourism plans to get a better understanding of what should be put in Sharon's. The next meeting will be July 20th.

Lake Review Committee Update-Gary:

In the last meeting, Conservation Commission presented a report regarding the functionality of the lake and the part that the Conservation Commission plays. Aside from the appointed Conservation Agent, there is no one capable of managing the lake. There is discussion of appointing an additional back-up employee from the existing staff in the Town of Sharon to assist if the Conservation Agent is absent. There was discussion of what the line of command will be.

The following meeting, a consultant from Weston came in to present about their facilities. They also discussed how all water tables are connected.

250th Update - Steve L:

The Anniversary Ball was a huge success! September 19th is "Light Up The Lake" followed by the parade the next day.

Recreation Update:

The School Committee liaison has changed from Katie Dykeman to Laura Salomons.

The Recreation Department has been ramping up for summer! The department is still seeking lifeguards, as there is a state-wide lifeguard shortage this year. Summer Kick-Off Celebration is June 26, 2015. For the 3rd of July celebration, all swimmers will be called out at 8pm.

Camp Massapoag - Sports Camp starts Monday, June 29th. Sailing and CREATE starts July 6th.

The Recreation Department will be hosting Moose Hill, Camp Utopia, Stars Camp, and the Salvation Army Camp to swim at Lake Massapoag this summer.

Lakeside Concert Series starts July 8th.

The SHS students did a great job at tidying up the stairs at Memorial Park Beach. Gary pointed out that we build beautiful facilities in town, but they are not maintained.

Parking on field at Deborah Sampson has become problematic.

Someone needs to contact SYBSA. Gary suggests a note to be sent to Larry Yaffe regarding the parking on the grass at Deb Sampson.

Next Meeting: TBD.

Motion to adjourn: Steve L.

Second: Cheryl

Unanimous vote

Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM

Respectfully Submitted

Christine Kasparian, Assistant Recreation Director