

TOWN OF DURHAM
RECREATION COMMITTEE
P. O. B OX 428
Durham Connecticut 06422-0428

**The Parks and Recreation Committee met at
Durham Library on Tuesday November 20, 2007.**

Chairman Kate Mc Laughlin called the meeting to order @7:35 PM.

Members present: Kate McLaughlin, Carol Herzig, Ann Figoras, Linda Handley, Joan Bowe, Liz Cipollina, Cheryl Salva and Sherry Hill.

Members absent: Karen Kean (alt), and Charlie Bray.

Minutes from October meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Halloween Parade was held at Brewster School on September 26th @11AM. It went well; all present had a great time. The turnout was small (26), consisting of mostly very young children. Numerous suggestions for improving the event in the future, including date and venue changes, new themes such as a pumpkin festival, and new features such as serving soup and pies or live music. Further discussion was tabled until a spring meeting of the committee.

The Holiday Tree Lighting will be held on the Green at 4PM, December 1st. hot chocolate and cookies will be served and there will be a carol sing with Santa. Liz Cipollina offered to contact CRHS Band director Dean Coutsouridis to see if he could round up a few band members to accompany the carol sing. Linda Handley will coordinate the refreshments and suggested the committee meet at 3:15 for set-up. A new "holiday special guest ensemble" is being provided for this and future year's festivities with the cost being shared by Park and Rec and the Durham Public Library. A new megaphone is being purchased as the present one is broken. Lottery tickets will be handed out and the winner will assist Santa in lighting the tree.

Sherry Hill reported on her experiences at the Connecticut Recreation Conference. She attended a number of special sessions including Youth Sports Programming, Walk Connecticut Info, Training Staff, Adults and Children in Youth Sports, and Skate Park Assets and Liabilities. This information will be discussed and referred to in more detail as these issues come to the table in future Park and Rec meetings. Sherry felt it was worthwhile and appreciated the opportunity to attend. Her final assessment: Durham Park and Rec is doing a good job, everyone who wishes to participate gets the most chances possible, and this is in line with our philosophy.

Winter Programs are moving forward. Youth basketball is gearing up and coaches' clinics have begun. Sherry Hill stressed the importance of proper training for staff and volunteers, and coach's clinics are key, with full participation required for coaches. As these programs also include Middlefield residents and participation rolls have steadily increased overall, the amount of work involved in maintaining these programs is growing. The committee discussed ways of finding help for Sherry in the future in such areas of data entry, scheduling, and facility prep. Inquiries will be made.

Adult exercise classes will commence soon and new ideas for programs such as an intergenerational knitting circle will be explored in the future.

Signage for Allyn Brook Park was also discussed. Wording from the Peckham Park signs will be the basis for getting price quotes and material estimates. Sherry Hill will gather the info and report back. Placement is an issue and needs to be coordinated with the Facilities Department. Once the wording is approved by the committee (which will take place at the December meeting), then a line item will be designated in the 2008 budget. Issues regarding any signage, including an additional sign for the tennis courts, will then be cleared through legal and insurance before the signs will be ordered. The goal is to have the signs up by the close of the school year.

The Park and Recreation Budget will be discussed and approved at the January meeting. Sherry Hill and Chairman Kate McLaughlin will hash out a rough draft of the budget and send it out to the committee members before the next meeting.

Kate McLaughlin asked that the Playground Special Committee remain active and a report will be presented to the park and Rec committee in the spring.

Upcoming 2007 activities:

Holiday Tree Lighting on the Green – December 1st, 2007, 4PM.

Next Meeting: December, 2007. Venue TBA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Cipollina, Secretary

11/26/07