

**DURHAM RECREATION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20th, 2010**

The Durham Recreation Committee met on Wednesday, January 20th, 2010 at the Durham Town Hall.

Members present: Liz Cipollina, Mark Dionne, Brendan O'Connell (alternate), Toby Bates, Anne Figoras, Cheryl Salva, and Karen Keane (alternate).

Sherry Hill, Recreation Director, was also present.

Members absent: Chris Manemeit, Mike Doyle, and Kate McLaughlin.

Linda Handly has respectfully submitted her resignation from the committee. We thank Linda for her service!

The meeting was called to order @ 7:05 PM. The minutes were read and approved.

Sherry Hill attended an annual Parks and Recreation conference in Connecticut on November 23rd and 24th. She attended workshops and presentations regarding hiking and biking trails, grants, and program development.

Tree Lighting was fun but cold. A band ensemble for CRHS was present and carols were sung. Hot chocolate and cookies were served was a special visit from Santa.

Men's basketball has organized four teams at Strong School.

Toby Bates reported that Karate and self-defense is going well and many more folks are signed up.

Youth basketball going well, all schools being used. Good enrollment.

The new Youth Music Club for both age groups is going very well. It serves two groups: grades one and two, and three and four. Possibility of a summer music camp is being discussed. More details at the next meeting.

Women's basketball has a small but strong enrollment.

New Youth Cooking Class is set for four days in February - with a limit of 12 persons for seventh and eighth graders - and is expected to fill quickly.

Fun and Fitness will start up in March.

Bus trip to Mohegan Sun went very well with requests to do it again in the spring. Sherry will look into it.

A special evening in late June for teens at Camp Farnum is being considered – "Schools Out for Summer" will be the theme. Details to be discussed at a future meeting.

BUDGET for 2010 – 2011 – discussion:

Registration fee for Summer Playground Program – Board of Finance has requested that additional revenue thru the program by increasing the sign-up fee. After much discussion a compromise was reached. The committee voted to increase the registration fee to \$35.00, a \$10.00 increase over last year.

NOTE: this allows the program to continue to function at its same high standards. Review of parent surveys indicated that overall they were very pleased with the program and general consensus was that charging a fee is not unreasonable. Increase in age appropriate activities such as a possible film project, theatrical production, or book group for the older groups was discussed and new activities will be added were possible for the summer program. Additional discussion at a later meeting.

Summer activities flyers will be mailed. Other options such as insert in local paper, tear-out registration from local paper, and flyers sent home thru district 13 were also discussed. Sherry will look into it.

After examining all line items, the committee voted to approve the budget for this year. Copies of the budget are available at Town Hall.

Recreation meeting schedule was altered as follows:

February 17th meeting will be changed to the 24th due to winter school break

April 3rd Egg Hunt will take place at 9AM

June 9th meeting changed to the 2nd.

Upcoming events:

Saturday, April 3rd – Egg Hunt – Allyn Brook Park

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Cipollina
Secretary