

**DURHAM RECREATION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH 2009**

The Durham Recreation Committee met on Wednesday, September 16th, 2009 at the Durham Town Hall.

Members present: Liz Cipollina, Mark Dionne, Cheryl Salva, Toby Bates, and Anne Figoras. Sherry Hill, Recreation Director, was also present.

Members absent: Karen Keane (alternate), Brendan O'Connell (alternate). Chris Manemeit, Mike Doyle, Linda Handley, and Kate McLaughlin.

Liz Cipollina (Secretary) called the meeting to order @ 7:20 PM. The minutes were read and approved.

Sherry Hill reported that things went well with all Summer Recreation programs. The older groups of children grades 5-7 participating in the Summer Playground program, are in need of more activities next summer – photography and archery were suggested. Further discussion tabled till a future meeting when more committee members will be present.

Questionnaires that were distributed to parents this summer were reviewed. Consistent positive comments were noted, with the majority of folks approving of the three-morning-a-week schedule. Mark Dionne commented that his children enjoyed the program very much. Night Recreation had some new components including ping pong, and a good time was had by all. Teen Nights at Camp Farnam were poorly attended and the committee discussed possibly holding the event before school lets out, during June, so that more teens can attend. "Schools out for Summer" would be the theme. Further discussion tabled till a future meeting.

Summer Sports programs were also very successful. Noted was the fact that there were eight women's softball teams in the summer league this year.

Sherry Hill recommended passing on the direct mail option for Fall/Winter programs this year as a cost saving move. Flyers will go home with District 13 children and regular posting will continue in the Town Times. Liz Cipollina made the motion to approve and the motion passed.

Sherry Hill also stated that a new adult workout program was suggested that would take place at Allyn Brook Park Mondays and Fridays from 9:45Am – 10:45AM. The committee voted to direct Sherry to move forward with research into the activity and institute a plan of action ASAP (due to the activity being dependent on mild temperatures, a delay would hinder its success). Toby Bates motioned to approve and the committee concurred.

Plans are also in the works for an adult bus trip to Mohegan Sun or Foxwoods in November. Details to be presented at the next meeting.

Fall programs have begun. Adult Volleyball, Women's Basketball, and Men's Basketball have been scheduled. Sherry expressed concern about finding gym time for adult activities during the winter season and is working hard to accommodate all folks interested in participating.

A committee site walk of the Howd Road open space property needs to be scheduled before the weather becomes too cold. The site walk is only for the purposes of the Park and Recreation Committee to come up with

suggestions and ideas for public activities, including a hiking/walking trail or a bike path. Those suggestions will then be presented to The Conservation Committee for their consideration at a later date. Further discussion tabled till Sherry can set this up.

Last year's Halloween Party and costume Parade was a huge success and very well attended. This year's party is scheduled for Saturday, October 31st, at 11AM. Further discussion of activities will be discussed at our October meeting.

Upcoming events:

- next meeting, October 21st, 7PM, Town Hall
- Halloween Party and Parade at Brewster School, October 31st, 11AM

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Cipollina
Secretary