

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:** Mary Flynn, Chair; Susan Daly; Marc Ioli; Lorene Bora; Erika Morris; Mary Louise Morgan

**STAFF:** Pamela Gery, Director; James Coghlan, Assistant Director

**OTHERS:** Doug DiVesta, DiVesta Civil Engineering Associates, Inc; Cheryl Russell, RTM, Vice Chair of Parks & Recreation; Linda Santarella; Patti Bumgardner

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. A quorum was present.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2015**

The commission made the following changes to the minutes of May 20, 2015:

- Page 1 – Remove “Loren Bora” under “Attendance”
- Page 1- Change “Chery Russell” to “Cheryl Russell” under “Others”
- Page 2 – 8<sup>th</sup> paragraph – change “He also said as Mr. Stahl was not a police officer and needed to avoid confrontations” to “He also said Mr. Stahl was not a police officer.”
- Page 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> bullet – change “difficult” to “complex”.

**\*\*MS. DALY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS.**

**\*\*MS. MORRIS SECONDED.**

**\*\*MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MS. MORGAN).**

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR, PAMELA GERY**

Ms. Flynn welcomed Ms. Gery as the new Director of Parks & Recreation. Ms. Gery provided a brief history of her background and informed the commission that she was excited to be in Darien.

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**WELCOME NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS DENNIS CONETTA AND MARY  
LOUISE MORGAN**

Ms. Flynn thanked former commission members Mark Crouch and Marianne Gutierrez for their years of service to the commission. Ms. Flynn then welcomed Ms. Morgan to the commission and notified the commission that Mr. Conetta was unable to attend the meeting.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION, WOODLAND  
PARK; GUEST: KENNY YAMAGUCHI**

Ms. Daly introduced Mr. Yamaguchi as a life scout and that he was here to present his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Yamaguchi introduced himself as a junior at Darien High School and that he had chosen Woodland Park for his project as he is on the track team and they often run through Woodland Park for practice.

Mr. Yamaguchi met with Meg Orner and Sophie Cirillo of Friends of Woodland Park to discuss his project. He would like to plant flowers around the main entrance and sign of Woodland Park to beautify the area. He said he has contacted the Garden Club of Darien, Nielsen's Florist and the Gardener's Center to assist with the project. He will be trying to purchase plants that are native to Connecticut and are deer resistant.

Mr. Morris asked about funding for the project. Ms. Daly asked about the timing of the project to which Mr. Yamaguchi explained he was looking at late August or fall to complete the project. Ms. Gery asked about who would maintain the area to which Mr. Yamaguchi explained he would try to purchase plants that would not encourage weeds. Ms. Gery suggested that he contact the Friends of Woodland Park to help maintain the area. Ms. Daly suggested that Mr. Yamaguchi notify her and the office when plants were chosen.

**\*\*MS. DALY MOVED TO APPROVE KENNY YAMAGUCHI'S PROJECT ON THE  
CONDITION THAT HE OBTAINS PLANT APPROVAL FROM MS. DALY AND THE  
PARKS & RECREATION OFFICE.**

**\*\*MR. IOLI SECONDED.**

**\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON AN ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER'S PARTIAL  
USE OF SELLECK'S WOODS**

Ms. Flynn provided the commission with a background of the request and handed out a letter from David Knauf, Director of Health in support of the project. Ms. Flynn informed the commission that she had met with Ms. Gery, Mr. Coghlan, Mr. Knauf and Chris Filmer of the Friends of Selleck's Woods to discuss the request as well.

Mr. DiVesta explained that the homeowner of 16 Little Brook Road North is requesting that a new septic system be installed on their property as their current system is leaking sewage into Selleck's Woods. Mr. DiVesta explained that a new time dosing, aerobic septic system would require approximately 500 square feet of sandy fill be placed into Selleck's Woods adjacent to the property.

Mr. DiVesta explained that silt fence would be installed to protect the area and that no trees would be removed from Selleck's Woods during construction. Ms. Daly asked about construction access and Mr. DiVesta informed the commission that access would be made on the side of the house. Mr. DiVesta explained that construction would take approximate 1 or 2 weeks and they are on the Environmental Protection Commission's July 1<sup>st</sup> agenda.

There was some discussion on the legal issues that may arise from approval of the project and that Ms. Gery and Mr. Knauf would look into this. Mr. Ioli asked about who would be responsible should tree roots damage the septic area. Mr. DiVesta explained the leaching field does not extend into Selleck's Woods.

**\*\*MS. MORRIS MOVED TO APPROVED THE USE OF SELLECK'S WOODS BY THE HOMEOWNER OF 16 LITTLE BROOK ROAD NORTH AS PRESENTED PENDING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION AND TOWN COUNCIL (LEGAL) APPROVAL.**

**\*\*MS. MORGAN SECONDED.**

**\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**THE GARDEN CLUB OF DARIEN; TREE DONATION FOR CHERRY LAWN PARK**

Ms. Flynn tabled this item as the Garden Club was not in attendance.

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## **APPOINTMENT OF WEED BEACH COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

There was discussion that the new members of the Weed Beach Committee needed to be formally appointed by the Park & Recreation Commission.

**\*\*MS. BORA MOVED TO APPOINT DENNIS CONETTA, DIANE CONOLOGUE, AND GOODY GRAY TO THE WEED BEACH COMMITTEE.**

**\*\*MR. IOLI SECONDED.**

**\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **DISCUSSION OF DOG LEASH REGULATIONS**

Ms. Flynn notified the commission that she, Jim Flynn and Mr. Coghlan had met with the police administration to discuss the commission's dog leash policies. Ms. Flynn stated that the police suggest the current policies stay as written. Discussion ensued about the Animal Control Officer spending more time at Cherry Lawn Park and the beaches.

Mr. Morris notified the commission that signs needed to be updated at Cherry Lawn Park as summer weekday, off-leash hours until 8:30am were not included. Ms. Flynn asked Ms. Morris to prepare a letter to the newspaper about the leash regulations. Ms. Bora asked if ticketing had been discussed during the meeting with the police administration. Ms. Flynn and Mr. Coghlan confirmed it had. The sense of the commission was to revisit enforcement in the fall.

Ms. Morris asked if the commission would be interested if private funding were available for fencing for the off leash area. Ms. Flynn replied that there are many different viewpoints on this subject. Ms. Gery asked if the commission thought the signs at Cherry Lawn were in the correct locations and sized appropriately. The sense of the commission was that they are good as is. Ms. Bumgardner suggesting have a flip-sign which could be changed when the time of off-leash hours changes throughout the year. Ms. Russell handed in some literature on dog feces that she requested be included in the minutes (attached). Ms. Santarella stated she had spoken with the police captains and sensed they were reluctant to enforce dog regulations.

## **REPORTS**

### **A. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Mr. Coghlan presented his report as submitted

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## B. CHAIRMAN

Ms. Flynn reported that she had met with the Darien Harbor Master and he has concerns about the boat ramp at Pear Tree Beach. Ms. Flynn indicated to him that it will be looked at as part of a larger master plan for the beach. Ms. Gery indicated that dead fish had been reported at Tilley Pond Park and this is likely due to the build-up of algae and a lack of rain.

## C. SUB-COMMITTEES/STUDY GROUPS

Ms. Bora commented that the RFP for the Weed Beach project had been sent to approximately eight companies and were due by July 6<sup>th</sup>. She hopes to have the proposals to review at their next meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Morris indicated that a bench dedication ceremony for Chris Filmer was held on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Selleck's Woods.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2015 at 7:30 PM at Weed Beach paddle tennis building (155 Nearwater Lane).

## ADJOURN MEETING

**\*\*MS. MORRIS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\*MR. IOLI SECONDED.**

**\*\*THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Coghlan, Assistant Director

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