

**MINUTES OF TOWN OF DARIEN  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
October 15, 2014**

**Call to order:** Mary Flynn, Marc Ioli, Lorene Bora, Erika Morris, Susan Daly  
Late arrivals: Amy Doering (7:35), Kevin Webb (7:40)

Jim Coghlan is new Interim Director; Sue Swiatek has retired. There are three new Park and Recreation Commissioners.

**Eagle Scout presentation** by Christopher Von Stuelpgagel, Troop 53.

Proposal to build an Osprey nest in conjunction with feedback from Greenwich Audobon and similar to New Canaan's recent Osprey relocation. Two possible locations: one by 25 Brush Island Road just past the picnic area and second near Short Lane; first one is preferable. Ring's End is giving discount with \$800+ required resources costing \$335; \$500 private donations have already been raised. Once approved by Parks and Recreation Commission, the 14' high nest should be constructed over 1-2 days and within 3 weeks; construction will be aided by Alan Bixler and other volunteers. The motion "All in favor of Christopher Von Stuelpnagel's project to build an osprey stand at Weed Beach as presented" was motioned by Susan Daly, seconded by Lorene Bora and unanimously approved.

**A presentation was heard by Barbara Cox**, 174 Nearwater Lane to change regulations and allow dogs at the beaches from October to March. Tonight's agenda was to listen and ask questions and follow up with a Public Hearing at the Parks & Recreation Commission November meeting. Barbara presented that Weed Beach is frustratingly little used in the off season; she lives in Noroton Bay; people clean up after their dogs; leashes are important to not bother others on the trails; recognized that people sneak into the beaches during the off season and this is not good. She proposed November 1<sup>st</sup> until the end of March on a trial basis that could be revoked at any time. She proposed the trial period include on leash on paths and off leash on Weed Beach; she placed emphasis on access to beaches over off-leash. Noroton Bay allows dogs on beaches informally; rules are not enforced. Beaches in other surrounding towns already allow dogs on beaches in winter months including Westport's Compo Beach, Norwalk's Calf Pasture and Greenwich's Todd's Point. The Dog Subcommittee was expanded to include Kevin Webb and possibly Amy Doering. Cheryl Russell expressed her personal view that dogs should not be allowed on beaches; she distributed a sign from East Haven with a statement about dogs and health concerns.

**Budget 2015-16** presentation by Cheryl Russell that the RTM P&R Committee wants to work to support Parks and Recreation Commission and that the RTM P&R Committee has items they'd like to support: new sand on the beaches; remove the \$40k dog fence at Cherry Lawn; open up bathrooms at Pear Tree Beach until mid-October (this raised concerns about who would lock the bathrooms); more signage about dogs and beaches; extend the fence at Pear Tree Beach, new gatehouse at Pear Tree Beach, set back away from road.

**Minutes of 6/18/14.** Change requested as follows:  
page 4, gift committee, final bullet point: changed Selig's Woods to Selleck's Woods.  
Motion to approve as amended by Erika Morris, second Mary Flynn, passed Erika Morris  
and Mary Flynn, abstained: all others.

**Short Lane Property:** Commissioners were urged to go look at it. Parks and Recreation  
Commission needs to discuss future use. Sub-Committee formed to include Kevin Webb,  
Lorene Bora, Amy Doering and Marc Ioli plus one representative from RTM P&R  
Committee, Werner Domittner.

**Darien Community Band** presented. They reviewed the history of the band and the  
desire to expand from the current 3-4 concerts per year. In summer of 2014, a new  
conductor Jonathan Grauer (DHS) was brought in and 2 concerts were performed at Weed  
Beach with minimal PR and 50-60 people in the audience. Requests were made for:  
Waiving the Weed Beach entrance fee for concerts (as was done in 2014), waive liability  
insurance (Jim Coghlan will look into this) and fund \$1,500 (largely for expense of the  
conductor). It was discussed that there are many places this funding could come from,  
including Board of Selectman and Darien Arts. Darien Community Band is a 501c3 non-  
profit group.

**2015 meeting schedule** was discussed. February meeting will be 2/11/15 and April  
meeting will be 4/8/15. Motion was made by Amy Doering to approve the meeting  
schedule as amended, second: Erika Morris, vote: unanimous.

Jim Coghlan reviewed the current structure of employees within the Parks and Recreation  
office and maintenance.

**Chairman's report:** Pear Tree master plan committee will need to be formed but given  
busy calendar will put off until 2015.

**Sub-committee** report: Dog subcommittee has been expanded to include Mary Flynn,  
Erika Morris and Kevin Webb.

No public comment.  
No additional business.

Motion to adjourn was made by Susan Daly, Second: Marc Ioli, **Vote:** unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erika Morris

**NEXT MEETING:** NOVEMBER 19, 2014 – DARIEN TOWN HALL RM. 119; 7:30 pm

