

**TOWN OF DARIEN
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Jane Branigan; Charlie Goodyear; Susan Daly; Bob Marchesi;
Mary Flynn; Marianne Gutierrez; Andy Hunter

STAFF: Susan Swiatek, Director; Jim Coghlan, Assistant Director

OTHER:

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Branigan called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JUNE 16, 2011

- ** MS. FLYNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2011.**
- ** MS. DALY SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON
DEER CULL IN SELLECK'S WOODS PARK**

Mr. Goodyear said the Darien Land Trust continues to support the culling of deer. The issue at Selleck's/Dunlap Woods is related to the fact that the Friends of Animals have been pressing for an FOI act. Dunlap Woods will be closed to traffic during the time of the cull, and the two blinds that the deer people had will be moved by 10 yards. Ms. Swiatek then read the resolution into the record.

- ** MR. GOODYEAR MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING
RESOLUTION OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE
TOWN OF DARIEN AUTHORIZING A DEER CULL ON PARK PROPERTY**

**WHEREAS, UNDER CHAPTER VII, THE PARKS & RECREATION
COMMISSION (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "COMMISSION")
HAS THE EXCLUSIVE CARE, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF ALL
PARKS OWNED BY THE TOWN; AND
WHEREAS, THE COMMISSION HAS BECOME AWARE OF THE SERIOUS
PROBLEM CAUSED BY THE OVERWHELMING POPULATION GROWTH
OF DEER WITHIN THE TOWN; AND**

WHEREAS, THE COMMISSION IS AWARE OF THE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY AS WELL AS THE POTENTIAL DANGER TO INDIVIDUALS CAUSED BY THE GEOMETRIC GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF DEER WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWN OF DARIEN; AND WHEREAS, THE COMMISSION HELD A PUBLIC MEETING ON JULY 20, 2011; AND

WHEREAS, THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN PROVIDED INFORMATION BY THE DARIEN DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY KENT HAYDOCK; AND

WHEREAS, THE COMMISSION IS AWARE OF THE VARIOUS ORDINANCES WHICH IN THEORY WOULD BAN THE CLIMBING OF TREES, WOULD BAN HUNTING ON PARK LAND AND WOULD PREVENT CARRYING WEAPONS ON PARK LAND; AND

WHEREAS, THE COMMISSION HAS RECOGNIZED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THOSE ORDINANCES AND THE PUBLIC POLICY BEHIND IT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE NEED TO PROTECT THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND PUBLIC LAND BY THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DEER POPULATION CONTAINED WITHIN IT.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COMMISSION HEREBY APPROVES A DEER CULL TO BE HELD ROUGHLY TWENTY-EIGHT (28) ACRES OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN, MANAGED BY THE COMMISSION AND COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS SELLECK'S WOODS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CULL WILL BE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MARK HILLER WHO WILL ACT AS MASTER OF THE HUNT. HE WILL RECEIVE DAILY REPORTS FROM THE HUNTERS AND WILL DELIVER THOSE REPORTS IN WRITING TO THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON A DAILY BASIS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE HUNT WILL BE RESTRICTED TO BOW-HUNTING ONLY.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CULL WILL TAKE PLACE FROM DAWN TO DARK, ON TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS (NOVEMBER 8, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 8, 2011, EXCLUDING NOVEMBER 24 (THANKSGIVING DAY – NO HUNTING). THE PARK WILL BE CLOSED DURING HUNTING DAYS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CULL WILL BE LIMITED TO HUNTERS, ALL OF WHOM WILL PROVIDE PROOF THAT THEY ARE REGISTERED WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION AND HAVE BEEN ISSUED PERMITS BY THAT ENTITY. THE MASTER OF THE HUNT, MARK HILLER, WILL PROVIDE PROOF OF PERMITS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE CULL TO THE COMMISSION AND DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT. THE

SELECTION OF THE HUNTERS IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DEER COMMITTEE.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN THE CULL, EACH HUNTER WILL EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS AND THE AFFIDAVIT OF MEDICAL AND LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE PART OF THE RESOLUTION.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT APPROVAL OF THE CULL IS CONTINGENT UPON AN INSURANCE RIDER OR POLICY BEING OBTAINED TO PROVIDE LIABILITY PROTECTION FOR THE TOWN, ITS AGENTS, SERVANTS, OR EMPLOYEES OR IN THE EVENT NO SUCH POLICY CAN REASONABLY BE OBTAINED THEN THE TOWN, ACTING THROUGH THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN, MUST ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LIABILITY IN THE EVENT THAT ANY CLAIM IS MADE ARISING OUT OF THIS ACTIVITY.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE HUNTERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONSTRUCT HUNTING STANDS LOCATED WITHIN SELLECK'S WOODS AND WILL REMOVE THE HUNTING STANDS AT THE END OF THE CULL;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE HUNTERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE DEER FROM THE SITE.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE HUNT IS EXPECTED TO NET NINE (9) ANTLERLESS DEER AND WILL FOCUS ON DOES.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE DARIEN DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL NOTIFY IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS OF THE HUNT BY LETTER.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE DARIEN DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR POSTING SIGNS AT ALL ENTRANCES TO THE PARK NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF THE DEER CULLING HOURS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL THE CULL IMMEDIATELY AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON BY NOTICE BEING DELIVERED TO KENT HAYDOCK AND/OR THE MASTER OF THE HUNT.

**** MR. HUNTER SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON INSTALLATION
OF NATURAL GAS LINE ON TOWN HALL FIELDS**

Ms. Swiatek explained that the Town of Darien has entered into a conversation with the gas company to provide natural gas services through a line down the Post Road and coming up Renshaw Road to Town Hall. The line would be buried and run through the

soil, not the road, and be one foot off the sidewalk along the slope of the hill of the playing field. She said she is awaiting word from the gas company rep for more information. She said she asked to have the work done in August, preferably not in the fall. The camps scheduled to take place would be relocated to the Town Hall building. If the gas company cannot accommodate this time request, the next window of time would be in November. Some concern was mentioned about obstacles in the way of the proposed line, as well as the potential for tying into the line after it is installed. There is economic benefit to having the natural gas line installed.

**** MS. GUTIERREZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED GAS LINE TO SERVICE TOWN HALL, PROVIDED ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT ARE BORNE BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN. THE INSTALLATION IS SUBJECT TO THE SCHEDULE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT. THE SITE MUST BE RESTORED TO ITS ORIGINAL CONDITION UPON COMPLETION. FUTURE TIE-INS AFFECTING PARKLAND MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION.**

**** MR. MARCHESI SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON DOGS IN PARKS REGULATIONS AS PREPARED BY TOWN COUNCIL

Ms. Swiatek said provided copies of the Proposed Amendment of Park and Recreation Rules and Regulations Regarding Dogs in Parks, July 2011, to the commissioners for their review. After some discussion, the following was clarified.

Section (b) Dogs in Parks, will read as follows: "Except in a dog area approved by this Commission, a portion of Cherry Lawn Park designated for unleashed dogs as provided in subsection (1), or subsections (2) and (3). No owner or keeper shall bring any dog into any park unless the dog is on a leash or lead that is no more than 25 feet and under the control of its owner or keeper at all times. No owner or keeper shall bring any dog into any playground area in any park."

It was further clarified that in subsection (1), Cherry Lawn Park, the first sentence should read as follows: "Dogs are not permitted in the community gardens or playfields at any time."

**** MR. GOODYEAR MOVED TO AMEND SEC. 42. R29 (b) BY REPEALING EXISTING LANGUAGE AND ADOPTING THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 2011:
(b) DOGS IN PARKS.**

“EXCEPT IN A DOG AREA APPROVED BY THIS COMMISSION, A PORTION OF CHERRY LAWN PARK DESIGNATED FOR UNLEASHED DOGS AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (1), OR SUBSECTIONS (2) AND (3). NO OWNER OR KEEPER SHALL BRING ANY DOG INTO ANY PARK UNLESS THE DOG IS ON A LEASH OR LEAD THAT IS NO MORE THAN 25 FEET AND UNDER THE CONTROL OF ITS OWNER OR KEEPER AT ALL TIMES. NO OWNER OR KEEPER SHALL BRING ANY DOG INTO ANY PLAYGROUND AREA IN ANY PARK.”

(1) CHERRY LAWN PARK: DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE COMMUNITY GARDENS OR PLAYFIELDS AT ANY TIME. DOGS ARE PERMITTED OFF LEASH OR LEAD FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO MAY 31 FROM DAWN TO 10:30 A.M. MONDAY – FRIDAY ONLY. DOGS ARE PERMITTED OFF LEASH OR LEAD IN THE DESIGNATED AREA BETWEEN THE DARIEN NATURE CENTER AND BROOKSIDE ROAD AT ALL TIMES. DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH OR LEAD TO AND FROM THE PARKING LOT TO THE DESIGNATED AREA. NO OFF LEASH OR LEAD HOURS ARE PERMITTED FROM JUNE 1-AUGUST 31 EXCEPT WITHIN THE DESIGNATED AREA.

(2) STONY BROOK PARK AND DILLER PARK: DOGS OR OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS ARE PERMITTED OFF LEASH OR LEAD AT ALL TIMES.

(3) TILLEY POND PARK: DOGS ARE PERMITTED OFF LEASH OR LEAD MONDAY-FRIDAY FROM DAWN TO 10:30 A.M. EXCEPT DURING SPECIAL EVENTS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION.

(4) SELLECKS WOODS NATURE PRESERVE, WOODLAND PARK NATURE PRESERVE, HOLAHAN FIELD, TOWN HALL FIELDS, BAKER PARK AND MCGUANE PARK: DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH OR LEAD AT ALL TIMES.

(5) WEED AND PEAR TREE BEACHES: NO DOGS ARE PERMITTED EXCEPT FOR ACCESS TO THE DARIEN BOAT CLUB.

(6) THESE REGULATIONS SHALL NOT APPLY TO GUIDE OR SERVICE DOGS ACCOMPANYING A DISABLED PERSON.

(7) NO OWNER OR KEEPER SHALL ALLOW ANY DOG TO DIG UP, MUTILATE, DEFACE OR DESTROY ANY PARK PROPERTY AND SHALL PROMPTLY REMOVE ALL FECES LEFT BY THE DOG ON PARK PROPERTY AND DISPOSE OF SUCH FECES IN A SANITARY MANNER.

**** MS. DALY SECONDED.**

**** MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

More discussion took place regarding the fundraising efforts for the proposed signs. Mr. Goodyear, Ms. Flynn, Ms. Morris and Mr. Hunter will be on the subcommittee and will be having their first meeting shortly. Ms. Swiatek said there are limited funds available in the budget for signs for the new area, and she suggested they decide on what kind of

signage, how many signs, size, etc. and let her know. She also said the commissioners can approach the Board of Selectmen for a special appropriation for this.

UPDATE ON WEED BEACH MASTER PLAN PROJECT

Ms. Swiatek said they have vetted the low bid, and reference checks have all worked out. The building committee has voted to move on that contract. The company is Warner Construction. The mobilization start date is August 15, 2011. Some changes to the original estimates include changing to a standing seam roof from an asphalt single roof, stone veneer from split face block, and clapboard to cedar shake. All three of those add alternates could potentially come in within the original budget.

REPORTS

a) Director

Ms. Swiatek reported that it is a busy time for the department, and everyone is doing a great job. Both Mr. Coghlan and Mr. Flynn have been very involved coordinating all aspects of projects, maintenance, etc. The beach sticker numbers are slightly higher than last year's numbers. She said that they need to stress to the public to do as much on-line registration as possible to alleviate in-office registration. The fitness trail approvals are in. The paddle court renovations are in year 3 of the 5 year plan, and bids will go out next week.

b) Assistant Director

Mr. Coghlan said the registration numbers were up from last year for the Summer programs, as well as the Spring programs. The Fall/Winter brochure will be on-line the first week of August. The brochures will be mailed out towards the end of August, and registration opens when school begins. The Senior Center program offerings will be included in the brochure.

c) Chairman

d) Sub-Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCUSS AUGUST MEETING

Some discussion took place among the commissioners, and it was decided that there would not be an August meeting. The next meeting will be on September 21, 2011.

**NEXT MEETING: Regular Meeting September 21, 2011 7:30 p.m.
Darien Town Hall, Room 119**

ADJOURN MEETING

- ** MR. MARCHESI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. GUTIERREZ SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr
Telesco Secretarial Services