

**TOWN OF DARIEN
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JULY 21, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Jane Branigan, Chair; Charles Goodyear, Bob Marchesi,
Marianne Gutierrez, Andrew Hunter

STAFF: Sue Swiatek, Director of Parks and Recreation;
James Coghlan, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Branigan called to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 19
AND JUNE 16, 2010.**

MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2010

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under **STATUS OF WEED BEACH PROJECT**, paragraph 1, line 3: please change the following from: “as the Town is has not released the funds, that were previously” to: “as the Town has not released the funds that were previously””

Page 2, paragraph 2, line three: please change the following from “due to the economy, this good time for” to “due to the economy, a good time for”

Page 2, paragraph 3, line 4: please change the following: “that \$3million is in the general fund as a contingency item and she is hoping” to “that \$3.6 million was approved and she is hoping”

Page 3, first bullet point: please delete “Ms. Swiatek would update the engineering plan outline and prepare a more formal proposal and e-mail the revised document to the Commissioners for comments or additions.”

Page 3, third bullet point: please change “Ms. Gutierrez” to “Ms. Graham”

**** MR. MARCHESI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2010
AS CORRECTED.**

**** MS. GUTIERREZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (BRANIGAN, MARCHESI, GOODYEAR AND GUTIERREZ) AND ONE ABSTENTION (HUNTER).**

MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2010

The following corrections were noted:

Page 2, paragraph 6, please delete the entire paragraph from “Mr. Goodyear asked if the \$3.5. million....to at the next BOS meeting.”

**** MR. GOODYEAR MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2010 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. MARCHESI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (BRANIGAN, MARCHESI, GOODYEAR AND GUTIERREZ) AND ONE ABSTENTION (HUNTER).**

DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON THE REQUEST FOR THE ANNUAL DEER CULL IN SELLECK’S WOODS

Mr. Goodyear said that there had been some discussion about changing the dates of the cull to have the hunters in the woods after the fall foliage. It is now scheduled to start the second week in November 9 and continue through December 9, excluding November 25th, Thanksgiving. The hunt will be conducted on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during that period. The park will be closed to the public at that time. The Darien Land Trust will also allow hunting in part of the Tokeneke Land Preserve. The town has approved \$2,000 for the signs and the butchering of the deer. The meat will be given to the Homeless Shelter.

**** MR. GOODYEAR MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

**RESOLUTION OF THE PARKS AND 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 21, 2010; 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 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 ON 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 THE 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 9, 2010 THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 2010 EXCLUDING NOVEMBER 25 (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.

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) ANTERLESS 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.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS

a) **Director** - Ms. Swiatek then reviewed the highlights of her written report with the Commission. The discussion then moved to the details involved with booking the various facilities. Ms. Swiatek said that Jean handles the bookings, payroll and payables.

Ms. Swiatek said that the number of seniors attending the Senior Center has increased

b) **Assistant Director** – Mr. Coghlan said that with the reduced hours at Pear Tree, the attendance has decreased. Ms. Swiatek said that the day camps are based at Weed Beach, plus the playscape is located at Weed Beach. At Pear Tree the slope of the shore is shallower, which is better for preschoolers. When the children reach school age, they prefer Weed Beach because of the playscape.

The camps are underway and Mr. Coghlan is working with the Board of Education regarding their programs.

c) **Chairman** – Ms. Branigan reported that at the recent Board of Selectmen meeting there was a discussion held about the three major projects (Weed Beach, Senior Center and the Police Station renovations) that have been slated for a start. She then gave an overview of the discussion and said that her feeling was the Board was going to propose bonding all three projects at one time. Discussion followed.

Ms. Swiatek explained that she can't request bids until she has confirmation of the amount allotted. Discussion followed. Ms. Swiatek suggested a presentation to the BOS when the drawings are completed. Mr. Goodyear agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no additional business to discuss at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public present to comment.

Ms. Swiatek suggested that the August meeting be cancelled. This seemed agreeable to all. Mr. Goodyear reminded everyone that a presentation would need to be prepared before the September BOS meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GOODYEAR MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. GUTIERREZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services