

**MINUTES OF TOWN OF DARIEN
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Mary Flynn, Chair; Susan Daly, Amy Doering, Mary Louise Morgan, Lorene Bora, Erika Morris, Dennis Conetta, Marc Ioli

ABSENT: Kevin Webb

STAFF: Pamela Gery, Parks and Recreation Director

OTHER: Adele Coniff, Diane Conologue, RTM Parks and Recreation Committee

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2016.

Corrections were noted and made.

**DISCUSSION AND TAKE ACTION ON LITTLE LEAGUE SCOREBOARD AND
FLAGPOLE DONATION.**

Santo Golino, a Little League volunteer was in attendance to present to the Commission the Darien Little League's proposal to donate a brand new scoreboard and flagpole at Cherry Lawn Park's Gallagher Field. Ms. Flynn made note that due to timing, Little League had already presented the proposal to Planning and Zoning the night before and this was given approval pending the P&R Commission's approval tonight. Ms. Gery noted that the scoreboard was placed strategically so not to be noticed by neighbors and also that the flagpole has an up-light on it as well. A discussion took place in regards to the amount of light that would project from the flagpole and whether or not this donation would set precedence for other sports groups who might want scoreboards. The Commission agreed that this would be a nice addition to the ballfield.

****MS. FLYNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SCOREBOARD AND FLAGPOLE DONATION AS PRESENTED BY LITTLE LEAGUE.**

****MS. BORA SECONDED**

**** THE MOTION PASSES WITH SEVEN IN FAVOR (FLYNN, BORA, CONETTA, MORGAN, IOLI AND MORRIS) AND ONE ABSTAINED (DOERING).**

**DISCUSSION AND TAKE ACTION ON DARIEN BOAT CLUB REQUEST TO
REPLACE EXISTING GAS TANKS AT THE BOAT CLUB.**

Ms. Flynn introduced Dave Devers, a former Boat Club Commodore for many years. Mr. Devers gave a brief overview of the proposal to replace the existing gas tanks and why this would be beneficial to the club, its members and the boating community. The Commission asked a few questions about safety concerns and how long the tanks were expected to last. Discussion followed.

**** MR. IOLI MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** MS. MORRIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RECREATION BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Gery said that her budget process went very smoothly with the Board of Selectman being very supportive. She reminded the Commission that the proposed Part Time Recreation Coordinator was cut by the Town Administrator but the proposed Full Time Recreation Supervisor has been supported thus far by the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectman. Gery also noted that Chairman Flynn and Assistant Director Jim Coghlan were present in the budget process and that Ms. Doering and Mr. Conetta were in attendance. Ms. Flynn noted Capital items that also have been approved thus far: Cherry Lawn basketball court, wood guardrail fencing at Holahan Field, Recreation office software, equipment reserve program.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON DARIEN OPEN SPACE PLAN

Ms. Flynn suggested to all the members of the Commission that they read the 1996 Darien Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan to familiarize themselves with that document and identify what is now outdated and no longer a priority. At the next meeting, we can discuss how we move forward towards a short term and a long term plan with our parks. Ms. Gery will provide a grand list of all parks at the next meeting with all activities and facilities at each.

REPORTS

Parks & Recreation Director

Ms. Gery presented her report and Assistant Directors report to the Commissioners. (See attached.)

Weed Beach Committee Report.

Ms. Bora updated the Commission on the recent Weed Beach Committee meeting. Discussion followed. She stated that the Weed Beach Committee will have completed their work once they have come to consensus on design concepts for Weed Beach and presented those recommendation to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Following a vote by the Commission, the Board of Selectmen will form a building committee.

Parks and Recreation Chairman Report – A discussion was held on the use of town email addresses, and the Chairman asked that all Commission members begin using their town emails for all Commission business.

ADJOURNMENT.

- ** MS. DALY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. DOERING SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Pamela Gery
Darien Parks & Recreation