

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

May 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 by Chairman Adele Conniff who presided.

Ten member were present: Chairman Conniff, Vice-Chair Diane Conologue, Amy Barsanti, Curtis Butler, Shannon Doherty, Werner Domittner, Dana Fead, Anne Finn, Phyllis Hawkins, and Andrew Millar

Absent were: Carlo Cantavero, Jennifer Hageney, Susan Lauritzen, and Bill Van Loan

New committee member, Shannon Doherty, introduced herself. Chairman Conniff welcomed her to the committee.

The minutes of the February 22, 2016 meeting were approved by six members with four members abstaining because they were not present at that meeting. The minutes of the April 4, 2016 meeting were approved by seven members with two members abstaining because they were not present.

Chairman Conniff then reviewed the new Parks and Recreation 2016-2017 budget. Although there were many cuts to the submitted budget, a few requested items remained in the revised budget. A discussion of the various cuts followed.

The committee member present voted unanimously to approve the budget.

In the Chairman's Report Mrs. Conniff spoke about the public hearing on April 20th that heard residents' comments on the plan to develop the .57 acre 4 Short Lane property that is now incorporated into Weed Beach dedicated parkland. She thanked those of the committee who got up to speak at the hearing.

She added that at the next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission on May 18th, there will be a "binding vote" on that plan which includes a 6700 sq. ft. swimming pool, a 575 sq. ft. splash pad, a 2600 sq. ft. pool and recreation building, a boardwalk with education overlook areas, fitness stations, a 2400 sq. ft. storage facility, small boat launch area, a 1,000 sq. ft. sailing center, beachfront boardwalk, picnic area, and 80 +/- parking spaces.

Vice-Chair Conologue, who sat on the ad hoc Weed Beach Expansion Committee, asked why the vote couldn't be delayed since relevant information - such as the cost, the environmental feasibility, etc. - were not yet available. She also expressed her concern that the WBEC had voted against the plan. A discussion followed.

There was then a discussion of the Parks and Recreation Commission's stand on the public being allowed to speak at the Commission's regular meetings. Chairman Conniff said that Mary Flynn, the current Chair of the Commission, told her that she could speak on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Committee at all Commission meetings.

It was also pointed out that there is an 'unwritten rule' that public comment is permitted at municipal meetings. There was general agreement that comment at the end of each discussion item made more sense than comment only at the start of meetings which is the way the agenda for the Commission's May 18th meeting reads.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Hawkins