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Wilton Parks and Recreation Commission

September 11, 2013

Present: Commission Chair Kevin O'Brien, Commissioners, Anne Richards, Joe Burke, Bryan Dedrick and Steve Pierce, Parks and Recreation Director. Commissioner Mark Ketley was unable to attend due to a death in the family. Also in attendance were Earl Goven, Eric Dean, Casey Healy, Peter Gaboriault and Gino Legaz. Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

Proposal for Lax Rebound Wall

Wilton Lax Association proposed to donate a rebound wall so that players can practice throwing and catching. The wall would be located behind the stadium bleachers and facing route 7, approximately 12 feet high and 48 feet long and painted primarily in Wilton blue. It is expected that there would be minimal maintenance expense to the wall. It was agreed that Steve Pierce would meet with the grounds crew and walk the intended location to consider any possible issues with the installation of a wall.

Middlebrook Turf Field

Casey Healy presented to the Commission the latest design plans for the development of a turf field at the current location of the Middlebrook football field. A comprehensive design is ready to be implemented pending town approvals. The presentation was intended to keep the Commission informed of developments on the project. There was no specific request made to the Commission.

Minutes

Bryan Dedrick made a motion to approve minutes from the July meeting, Kevin O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-0). [As a consideration to guests at the meeting, the topics of the rebound wall and turf field were discussed prior to the commencement of regular Commission business so the vote on the minutes occurred after the two presentations]

Parks and Grounds

Steve Pierce reported that a dump truck had to be taken off the road as it was no longer fit for usage. Also, sodding is underway at Ambler, Allens and Guy Whitten field. Steve also reported that repairs to the roof of Comstock were underway.

Facility Use

Chairmen O'Brien recused himself from this discussion due to his involvement with the WBSA. Steve Pierce sent a questionnaire to sports organizations in Wilton that use town facilities and fields. The questions were designed to provide the commission with a better understanding of the number of teams, players, non-resident participants and organizational policies of each organization. Steve reported the results of the questionnaires that were provided by WLL, WSA, WFA, WBSA. Steve reviewed the responses of each of the organization including the figures for resident and non-resident participants. The organizations reported that 98% of the 4,000 participants in their organizations were Wilton residents. The Commission had a lengthy discussion regarding the issues around non-residents using town facilities and the ability of the Commission to regulate that usage. Based on the data provided by the local sports organizations, the Commission agreed to ask the presidents of the WSA and the WBSA to attend the next Parks and Recreation meeting to discuss two of their programs that have the highest percentage of non-resident participants. Following the commissions discussion on this subject, comments from the public were taken. Gino Legaz expressed concern regarding the costs associated with allowing non-residents to use town facilities.

Toddler Program

Steve Pierce reported on efforts to reinstate the toddler program. Alternative sites for the program, including Webco, YMCA, Board of Ed and Comstock are being evaluated. In the interim, and afternoon arts and crafts program has been added. Ongoing meetings are being held with the Selectman's office on this matter.

There being no further business, Commissioner O'Brien moved to adjourn at 9:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Dedrick

Bryan Dedrick
Commissioner