

Kent Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes June 15, 2015 Meeting

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KENT TOWN CLERK

2015 JUN 16 P 2:03

BRADLEY R.  
TOWN CLERK

Present: Jerry Decker, Dave Dunleavy, Mike Green, Glen Nielsen, director Lesly Ferris

Public and Invited Guests: None.

Chairman Dave Dunleavy called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Alternates: No alternates were present at the meeting.

Agenda: Mr. Green made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes: Mr. Green made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2015 monthly meeting. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Public and Invited Guests: There was no public at the meeting.

Director's Report: In addition to the director's report provided prior to the meeting (attached), Mrs. Ferris reported she had met that afternoon with the lifeguard staff, saying the staff members are very excited about working this summer. The summer camp staff meeting is June 16. Mr. Dunleavy asked for an update on spring baseball programs. Mr. Decker said the Little League team is doing well, and he and Mr. Dunleavy agree the playing fields look great. Mr. Decker and Mrs. Ferris explained a discrepancy between the Connecticut and New York State teams regarding double rostering of players. Mrs. Ferris has requested this be reviewed in the off season. Mrs. Ferris noted she has submitted an application to nominate a community organization for an award that is presented at the annual CRPA Conference.

Old Business: After-School Program: Mrs. Ferris reiterated the program will end Thursday for this school year. She expressed her pleasure with the job performance of Kiera and Brittany. Mrs. Ferris said she reviewed the attendance numbers and the costs and noted the program is close to meeting its expenses this year. She will have a final report in July.

Parks: Mrs. Ferris ordered sand for the Emery Park beach area and is getting a price on safety fabric for the two playgrounds. She is scheduled to begin filling the swimming area the following day and plans to open the park for swimming June 23.

2014-15 Budget: There was no report.

Five-Year Capital Plan: There was no new report.

Summer Concerts: Mr. Dunleavy confirmed the chamber will fund the concert series and the three bands are confirmed. Mr. Dunleavy asked if the Community House could be a rainy day

site? Mrs. Ferris will make a flyer to send home through Kent Center School and will post in town. She also will order signs, and send out a press release for local media, the town newsletter and the senior newsletter. Mr. Dunleavy said he has a 10x10 tent he could bring. He suggested getting contact numbers for the three bands to maintain contact with them and to reiterate to the bands that there only is an electrical outlet. Mrs. Ferris had a sign-up sheet for commissioners to volunteer to attend a concert(s) to help. She will email the commission this information, as well. Mrs. Ferris will order a port-o-let to have at Town Hall.

Emery Park Timber Harvest: Mrs. Ferris said she has not heard yet from Jim Gillespie. Mr. Dunleavy said he walked the trail and does not see the need for trimming the invasive species as the trail is clear but suggested waiting to hear Mr. Gillespie's proposal. Mrs. Ferris noted there is a trail map at Bull's Bridge and it might be nice to have a similar one for Emery Park, although she cautioned about the potential for vandalism.

Fishing Derby: Mrs. Ferris just emailed Club Getaway. The commission discussed waiting until next spring but starting to plan for that now.

New Business: Director PTO: Mrs. Ferris requested paid time off days in July and August. Mr. Green made a motion to approve July 1, July 2 (4 hours), July 10 and Aug. 24-28, 2015 as PTO days for Mrs. Ferris. Mr. Decker seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

After-School Program Director 2015-2016: Mrs. Ferris noted the deadline for applications for After-School Program director is July 2, 2105. She said she has received two applications to date and spoke with a third person who would be interested in helping as a substitute. Mrs. Ferris proposed several dates for interviews and will email these dates to the commission to determine which date would work. Mrs. Ferris said she would like to have a proposed candidate for the commission to consider at its July 20, 2015 meeting.

Mr. Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.



Lesly Ferris  
Director

*Minutes are not considered final until approved. Refer to the minutes from ensuing meeting for any changes and/or corrections.*

Lesly Ferris, Director  
Kent Park and Recreation

*Director's Report*  
*June 2015*

From the May monthly meeting:

- I have sent contracts for employment to Maddie Sheldon and Laura Craft and a revised contract to Megan Leach.
- I have received two verbal responses to the After-School Program director ad, which is posted on the Town and Park and Recreation websites and was in the June monthly selectman's email newsletter. I have one application.
- I have confirmed July 23, 30 and Aug. 6 as dates for the summer concert series at Town Hall and have performers for each of these dates.

From the director:

**After-School Program:** I have sent out the bills for May and reminded families that the program will end Thursday, June 18 for this school year. I also let families know that payments due the program need to be paid by June 22. Attendance continues to be good – we had 10 youngsters last Friday when this typically is a lower attendance day. Kiera and Brittany are doing a good job with the students and ensuring that homework assignments are complete, and the youngsters have been getting outside.

**Seniors:** Social Services Director Leah Pullaro and I are working on the July/August senior newsletter. The May outing was a visit to IKEA where we shopped and had lunch. The free Tai Chi classes are ongoing at the senior center. There are five seniors who have been participating. The Pilobolus class, also free, began June 5. We had our last Friday senior luncheon of the school year May 29 and plan to resume Sept. 11. Thank you again to The Kent and Kent, Marvelwood and South Kent Schools for their ongoing support of this program. We had a great crowd on the last day – some 30 seniors attended. This month's outing is the Katherine Hepburn Museum in Old Saybrook. I have 18 people going with one person on the waiting list. We also are planning to offer the AARP safe driving course in September.

**Budget:** I cannot email you a budget report because there have been some glitches with the computer system at Town Hall following the breakdown of the server. We should be on target to spend our budget lines by the end of the month.

**Parks:** The pool cleaning continues at Emery. I ordered and received 23 tons of sand for the beach area. The town crew will move the sand to the beach area and the lifeguards will rake it. I also plan to get safety fabric for the two playgrounds.

**Fee Programs:** The new session of Tang Soo Do classes began May 18, and dog obedience class May 27. I received a call about sponsoring ice hockey summer camp next year and suggested a written proposal be submitted next January to the commission.

**Baseball:** The baseball programs will end the week of June 15 except for the Minor and Farm teams, both of which have games scheduled on June 27. Participants will receive a ribbon. We had picture day for the two travel teams. Thank you to Glen Nielsen who has been prepping the field for games.

**Regional Recreation directors:** The rec directors met June 2. We discussed the fall soccer season and are working on getting prices and details for the soccer trainer that four towns share each fall. We went over last minute details for the June 5 regional senior luncheon that was held at The Grove in Salisbury. That day was National Donut Day, and we had gift cards and some bags of donuts for raffle prizes. We discussed reviewing some baseball rules for next season and plan to meet with the board of the regional soccer club.

**Summer Employees:** I have scheduled staff meetings for summer employees. I will meet June 15 with the Emery Park lifeguards and June 16 with the camp staff. I am accepting applications for volunteer counselors to assist at Camp Kent and have at least one interested youth.

**Summer Programs:** The participation in the in-person registration for Camp Kent was lighter than recent years but there have been numerous calls and emails since for registrations for camp. Each of the eight weeks is at least half full with several weeks having 18-20 campers registered. I have two registrations for summer tennis lessons and only two inquiries about the film camp but no registrations yet. I have put printed copies of the summer camp programs outside the office and each is on the website.

**Summer Concert Series:** The chamber is confirmed for funding, which would total \$1400. I will order a port-o-let for the Town Hall parking lot and will have a garbage receptacle available. I have shared the dates with the road crew foreman so he can schedule the lawn mowing at Town Hall for those weeks. We have three bands confirmed: Last Good Bender, band that includes Bruce Carlson; Mojo Nectar, including Kent residents Jeff Kennedy and Scott Bricher; and Dylan Halas' band. The commission needs to come up with a name for the series, and we need to create a flyer and I will send out a press release and include this on the websites, including sending to the Chamber to put on its calendar page and include in the Town and senior newsletters.

Looking ahead ...

- I will be requesting some PTO days during the summer. This is on the meeting agenda.
- The Park and Recreation office will be closed June 23-26.

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BY *Deanne Stally*  
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