

**TOWN OF DARIEN
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 11, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Mary Flynn, Chair; Lorene Bora, Mark Crouch, Marc Ioli,
Susan Daly, Marianne Gutierrez, Erika Morris, Amy Doering

STAFF: James Coghlan, Interim Director

OTHER: Members of presentations as noted.

CALL TO ORDER.

Ms. Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ** MS. FLYNN MOVED TO TABLE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2015 UNTIL MARCH.**
- ** MR. CROUCH SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION

Eagle Scout Project: Bat Houses - Edouard de Parcevaux

Mr. de Parcevaux submitted his power point presentation summarized as follows:

- Proposes to erect 6, bat houses that will be 14' H and 20' apart
- Locations at Weed Beach back trails, Cherry Lawn off trails (Forrest Nature Center), Stony Brook Park this April 2015.
- Each house will hold roughly 100 bats or more.
- Rationale:
 - Bat houses needed to alleviate the deadly white nose syndrome that is a result of improper housing.
 - Bats benefit the community as plants are dependant for pollenation, consume approx. 600 mosquito's per hour.

Mrs. Miller is providing technical assistance as a resource for the project.

Eagle Scout Project – continued

Comments from the Commissioners are noted:

No permits are required just permission from Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Flynn requested a map of exact locations of each house.

Ms. Miller addressed Mr. de Parcevaux's diligence in placement consideration.

Ms. Daly agreed to assist to oversee placement.

**** MS. DALY MOVED TO APPROVE EDOUARD DE PARCEVAUX EAGLE SCOUT BAT HOUSE PROJECT WITH CONDITIONS AS NOTED.**

**** MS. GUTIERREZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Eagle Scout Project – Tree Labeling Program – Brandon Golino

Mr. Golino, Troop 35, stated he was a student at Darien High School and Eco Citizens group member. He explained that while hiking in New Mexico he had the project idea and wishes to enhance the Darien area. He has reached out to tree conservancy and is working with Ms. Harris and an Arborist to properly implement this project.

Mr. Golino presented his project summary as follows:

- Posting educational signs describing tree type, best uses and facts about native trees in our area.
- These 6" x 8" recycled material signs are to be responsibly sight line mounted in Spring 2015 in four places throughout Darien locations:
 - Seligs Woods, Baker Woods, Bird Sanctuary and Cherry Lawn.
- This project will also host a QR code to enhance the educational experience.
- Darien Tree Conservancy will cover cost of signs (approx. 25 – 80).
- All applicable resources have been met with with exception of tonights approval request.

Comments from the Commissioners are noted:

No permits required just permission from Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Daly requested a map of the locations of the trees.

**** MS. DALY MOVED TO APPROVE BRANDON GOLINO'S EAGLE SCOUT TREE LABELING PROJECT WITH CONDITIONS AS NOTED.**

**** MR. CROUCH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSL**

BUDGET

Ms. Flynn noted that she and Mr. Coghlan attended the Board of Selectman (BOS) meeting. A request for \$80,000 was made for the Parks & Recreation plan. At the BOS public hearing they decided to put \$25,000 in a contingency fund and asked us to come up with possible plan to do some level of a study using this money to potentially work with P & Z on the Town plan.

Ms. Flynn explained that a committee is needed to figure this out, and the members were asked to volunteer. It is requested for this to be a ten to fifteen year operational plan.

The Board of Selectmen also put \$40,000 in contingency for Weed Beach sand based on P&R creating a metric for why and how sand is needed. Jim Flynn and Jim Coghlan are working on gathering data for this project.

The entire operating budget, based on the Board of Selectmen approval, is moving forward to the Board of Finance.

DISCUSSION

It was discussed to implement guidelines on scout project approvals as follows:

- Maximum of four (4) in total per year (2 Spring/2 Fall).
- First come, first served will be heard.
- Projects must be presented with prior and necessary research.
- Projects should demonstrate the benefit to the Town.

Ms. Flynn noted a formal policy is not needed at this time and requested that Ms. Daly relay this guideline change to the Troops and adult leaders.

REPORTS

a) Sub Committees/Study Groups –

Ms. Bora reported the following:

- The Short Lane budget is to be in place this time next year.
- Once the budget is approved by RTM in May they will wait 10 days to act.
- A Public meeting set for March 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Room 119.
- Notice will be posted.
- RFP to be reviewed.

b) Interim Director – As presented

c) Chairman -

Darien Junior Sailing (DJS) has not reached their fundraising goal. Consider adding boat building to Short Lane project as a building to Park & Recreation specifications and could revert back to the town if DJS is no longer utilizing. DJS will use the paddle hut as their headquarter location place this year.

It was suggested that a contract and insurance requirements be outlined before the building is completed.

Ms. Bora's committee will address this matter with the Short Lane project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. GUTIERREZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MR. CROUCH SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Moné
Telesco Secretarial Services