

**TOWN OF DARIEN
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SHORT LANE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 10, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Lorene Bora (Chair), Marc Ioli, Werner Domittner, Amy Doering

ALSO ATTENDING:

Parks & Recreations Commission: Mary Flynn (Chair), Marianne Gutierrez

RTM Parks & Recreation Committee: Adele Coniff (Chair), Cheryl Russell (Vice Chair), Phyllis Hawkins

Other: Jane Branigan (former Chair Parks & Recreation Commission), Diane Conologue

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain public input regarding the development of the Short Lane parcel and surrounding portions of Weed Beach Park.

Phyllis Hawkins addressed the committee on behalf of the RTM Parks & Recreation Committee. She stated that the overwhelming desire of the committee is for the parcel to remain as natural and nature oriented as possible. Possible activities to be offered include beach volleyball, kayaking and other low impact activities. Walking paths were also mentioned. There was no support for a pool or other commercial enterprise.

Cheryl Russell stated that the property should be kept low key and suggested that the paths should be extended.

It was also noted that any development plan should take into account the cost of ongoing maintenance, for instance if a building is developed for Darien Junior Sailing. Another comment was that the committee's initial plan should be "slow and easy" allowing for further development in the future. A picnic area was suggested so that picnickers could also swim with the protection of a lifeguard. The current picnic area at the opposite end of the park is buggy.

Jane Branigan supported open space and a picnic area. Paddle boats were also mentioned.

There being no further comment, the meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorene Bora, Chair

Short Lane Committee