

**TOWN OF DARIEN
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Charlie Goodyear, Acting Chairman; Susan Daly; Vin Burke;
Bob Marchesi; Marianne Gutierrez (7:40 p.m.)

STAFF: Susan Swiatek, Director; Jim Coghlan, Assistant Director

OTHER: Robert Price, Harbor Master

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Goodyear called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**DISCUSS THE USE AND STATUS OF THE LIGHT AND ULTRA-LIGHT BOAT LAUNCH RAMP
AT WEED BEACH**
GUEST: ROBERT PRICE, HARBOR MASTER

Ms. Swiatek explained that at Weed Beach, there is a light/ultra-light boat launch ramp area and a playground in between two structures, which has created a safety problem. She asked Mr. Price his thoughts on how to improve the situation. Mr. Price said that the existing boat launch area is excellent for small boats and for boat owners to unload off of their cars. The new children's area is blocking the area for boat owners to back up to launch their boats. He said the boat launch ramp could be moved up towards the picnic area and it would be a minimum of trouble.

Ms. Swiatek said they now understand how the Weed Beach boat ramp is used for jet ski's. Mr. Price said it was not an issue, and there are not that many jet ski users.

Ms. Gutierrez arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Ms. Swiatek said she plans on meeting with the engineers to review relocating the boat launch ramp. She said that they can't extend the asphalt towards the water, and they have to insure that there are no rocks in the relocated area that would make it unsafe and improbable to launch the boats. She said that the cost of the relocation could be a budget item, or it could be put into the next phase of the Weed Beach Master Plan.

Mr. Goodyear asked if there will be fencing around the swings. Ms. Daly said that the fencing will be done soon, and they still need it regardless of whether they relocate the boat launch ramp. Ms. Swiatek said the grade will be different in the next parking lot phase, and the curbing is holding back the sand now. To do the two projects singly would become a cost item.

Mr. Burke said the project shouldn't be treated as a remnant, and agreed with Ms. Swiatek that it won't take much to put in another ramp. Ms. Swiatek said that there was a suggestion made in earlier discussions to have a turnout for cars. Mr. Burke suggested that the name be changed from Light/Ultra Light Boat Launch Ramp to Small Boat or Small Craft Launch.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2009

Mr. Burke thanked the Chair and the Commission for allowing the corrections he made and submitted to be included in the minutes.

The corrections to the regular meeting of October 21, 2009 are as follows:

On page 2, from his written corrections that were submitted, 2nd paragraph, change “DROWN” to “DRAWN”.

In the 3rd paragraph, 4th sentence, change “Darien harbors” to “Darien Harbors”, and “reposts” to “reports”.

On page 3, 1st paragraph, the 1st sentence should read: “Additionally, it should be noted that while the playground area is a welcomed addition to the beach,

On page 3, 1st paragraph, the 2nd sentence should read: “It should also be noted that boat ramp area needs to be paved to allow vehicular access when dropping off small boats and kayaks.”

**** MS. DALY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2009 AS AMENDED.**

**** MR. BURKE SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

STATUS REPORT ON WEED BEACH MASTER PLAN:

Ms. Swiatek said there is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 24 with the engineers and general contractor to finish reviewing the invoices and the fence plans. She said there is a discrepancy with the as-built, and they have to review the survey document to determine the proposed plans vs. what was built. Ms. Swiatek took the new 1st Selectman, David Campbell, for a walk-through of the beach, as well as some other areas in Town. She said she told him that there was a desperate need for the bathhouse, and landscaping. She offered a tour of the beach to the other two new Selectmen, Ms. Stevenson and Mr. Nielsen.

DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON GIFT DONATIONS:

A. GIFT OF TREE IN FRATE PARK IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY FRATE – CHRIS MCGOLDRICK, GROWING CONCERN; JEFFERY FRATE

B. GIFT OF SPECIAL SAND TOPDRESSING FOR CASEY FIELD – DARIEN SOCCER ASSOCIATION (VALUE \$900).

C. GIFT OF SOD – HOLAHAN FIELD – DARIEN BABE RUTH (VALUE \$1100).

**** MS. DALY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING THREE GIFTS: A GIFT OF A TREE IN FRATE PARK IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY FRATE; A GIFT OF SPECIAL SAND TOPDRESSING FOR CASEY FIELD; AND A GIFT OF SOD FOR HOLAHAN FIELD.**

**** MR. BURKE SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Burke credited Jim Flynn for doing a great job on the maintenance of the fields. It was mentioned that there should be a "No Dogs Allowed" rule at the beaches. Ms. Swiatek said that it is in place as a rule, that it was once an ordinance, but then the RTM removed it for the Town Charter.

DISCUSS BUDGET 2011

Ms. Swiatek said the Finance Department set up the format yesterday on her computer so she could begin planning the budget information. She said she has been asked to present items to be cut. Some discussion took place regarding areas of the budget that could be cut without a major impact, including garbage removal, geese control, lifeguards, and gate guards. A suggestion was made to combine resources with the boat club personnel to recoup extra funds, and after the beaches close, to check out the boats. Another suggestion was made to have all the same information available to the Commissioners on the proposed budget cuts so that they can lobby with residents if necessary.

REPORTS

a) Director

Ms. Swiatek said she had nothing to add to the report that she had submitted.

b) Assistant Director

Mr. Coghlan said he had nothing to add to the report that he had submitted.

c) Chairman

There was no Chairman report.

d) Playground by the Sound

There was no report from Playground by the Sound.

OTHER BUSINESS (TWO-THIRDS VOTE)

There was no other business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Meeting December 16, 7:30 p.m. Darien Town Hall, Room 119

**** MR. MARCHESI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. BURKE SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr
Telesco Secretarial Services