

Parks and Rec Committee  
minutes from 5/5/14

Quorum for meeting with 7 of 11 members present: Cheryl Russell, Anne Finn, Werner Domittner, Nancy Coyle Downs, Phyllis Hawkins, Adele Conniff, Diane Conologue.

Absent: Bill VanLoan, Carol Matton, Dana Fead, Tom Valentino The committee discussed at length from 7:30 PM until approximately 9:30 PM the upcoming 2014/15 Parks and Rec proposed budget Operating budget discussion included but not limited to what was requested versus what was actually approved. Such things as cutting facility manager, but moving to board of selectman budget, cutting of the gate guard budget, and cutting some money for trees, materials, and supplies, were talked about. There was a lot of discussion involving the issue of no saturday garbage pick up at the beaches in season which can lead to overflowing garbage cans and an unkept appearance during prime months at the beaches. Also discussed man hours versus tasks required by Parks and Rec staff at our parks and beaches.

Capital budget discussion was mainly but not limited to the absolute need for new sand replenishment at both town beaches. It was discussed that sand replacement had not been done in many years and all the members of the committee present felt that the need for sand is one of the highest priorities for proper maintenance at our town beaches. It was stated that our town beaches are focal points in town and play an important role when potential real estate customers are coming to town, hence our beaches should be maintained to the highest possible standards for the enjoyment of our many residents. It was discussed that after the town has experienced 2 major storms in the last few years, the need for sand replacement is imperative.

Vote #1 Diane Conologue moved to approve the 2014/15 Park and Rec operating and capital budgets of the town of Darien. Nancy Coyle Downs seconded the motion. The motion was not approved with 0 in favor, 6 against, and 1 abstaining. The 1 abstaining vote was because the member agreed with the operating portion but disagreed with the capital portion of the budget because 2 major storms took away the majority of beach sand.

Chairman Cheryl Russel gave the Chairman's report.

Vote #2 Approval of the Jan. 6 minutes. Six members in favor and one member abstaining.