

RTM P&R Minutes for February 1, 2016 Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Chairman Adele Conniff who presided.

Nine members were present: Chairman Conniff, Vice-Chair Diane Conologue, Carlo Cantavero, Werner Domittner, Dana Fead, Anne Finn, Phyllis Hawkins, Andrew Millar, and Bill Van Loan

Absent were: Curtis Butler, Jennifer Hageney, and Susan Lauritzen

A budget update was given by Chairman Conniff who distributed the budget to those present. This was the Parks and Recreation budget as amended by Kate Buch, Town Administrator, and then presented by her to the Selectmen to be reviewed at their January 28th meeting. Although Town Administrator Buch did not support all of the Parks and Recreation Commission's requests, she kept a number of important items. She let remain in the budget a full-time employee for the Commission and \$70,000. for a basketball court at Cherry Lawn Park.

She did not, however, support the requested Master Plan for a renovation of Pear Tree Beach. The committee expressed its disappointment, and a discussion followed.

Chairman Conniff said that the Selectmen's final vote on the budget will be on February 10th and encouraged the committee members to attend that meeting. She said that the budget will then go to the Board of Finance for further approval.

The Chairman's Report was then given by Vice-Chair Conologue. A gift was offered to Parks and Recreation for scoreboards at McGuane Field. One-third of the gift came from the Suzanne Stisser family and the rest from the Darien Little League. The committee was unclear as to whether this gift may be accepted without coming before the entire RTM for a vote.

Chairman Conniff then asked each committee member for his/her thoughts on the Weed Beach expansion project. A lively discussion

followed regarding the four diverse plans from the engineering firm of Weston and Sampson. Questions were raised about the environmental impact of such development, the cost, the probability of flooding, and the need for greater security. Mr. Cantavero, who served for many years on the Greenwich RTM, brought up the various problems encountered with that town's pool in Byram. It was noted that New Canaan's town pool at Waveny Park was used less than anticipated. As a result, New Canaan has opened the pool to non-resident memberships.

Also discussed was the Weed Beach Expansion public hearing on January 26th. Mrs. Conologue and Mr. Domittner, who serve on the ad hoc Weed Beach Expansion Committee which ran the hearing, said that the attendees' sticker vote from that evening was not yet available.

The financing of the 41 Hecker Avenue property purchase was then discussed. The Hecker property is a 1.245 acre parcel in the Stony Brook floodplain. The Darien Land Trust will be contributing half the cost, and the rest will be covered by a \$137,500. state grant to the town.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Hawkins