

Minutes from the Darien Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

April 4, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with the following committee members present: Adele Conniff, Diane Conologue, Sue-Ellen Mitchell, Patti Bumgardner, Curtis Butler, Chris Ezbiansky, Susanne Handler, Andy Millar, Ken Fiveson, Jennifer Moller, Emily McDermott and Bill Van Loan. Guests in attendance were: Mary Flynn (Parks and Rec Commission), Patrick Keane, Tom Finnegan and Frank McGarry.

The minutes from the January 10, 2018 and February 6, 2018 meetings were unanimously approved.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Parks and Recreation budget noting that additional monies had been added to the budget for Woodland Park to provide an updated survey.

The Tokeneke Club Proposal was discussed. The Ox Ridge Hunt Club has extended the use of their paddle courts for another season eliminating the urgency of an immediate decision. Wilder Gleason is now reviewing the proposal.

The Ox Ridge Property was discussed in terms of the type and amount of use that the property could face. Several committee members as well as some of the guests in attendance voiced their concern that the Board of Selectmen's decision may not reflect the town's wishes for passive open space. Andy Millar made the point that active recreation as well as passive recreation was mentioned in the purchase agreement. Andy also mentioned that the agreement prohibits artificial turf and permanent structures. A committee member mentioned that one of the top concerns of the town, which was reflected in the survey, was "preserving open space". Adele noted that it also included "land acquisition" which may have created the misunderstanding as to how that space would be used. The topic concluded with all agreeing that the Ox Ridge Property is a beautiful piece of land that the entire town enjoys and that there is need for compromise.

Adele Conniff reported that the Tree Conservancy would like to donate trees to the town beaches starting with Pear Tree Beach. Also discussed was cutting back or replacing tall grasses at Weed Beach for safety concerns. Also reported was Cherry Lawn Park which had received new decking and an aerator through a grant.

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

Respectfully submitted by Sue-Ellen Mitchell