

RTM Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

June 6th, 2018

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

Nine members were present: Chairman Conniff, Vice-Chair Diane Conologue, Patti Bumgardner, Susanne Handler, Phyllis Hawkins, Emily McDermott, Andrew Millar, Sue-Ellen Mitchell, and Bill Van Loan

Absent were: Curtis Butler, Carlo Cantavero, Chris Ezbiansky, Ken Fiveson, Jennifer Moller, and Cheryl Russell

Frank Kemp, Chairman of TGS&A Committee, also attended.

Committee members who were present at the RTM Parks and Recreation Committee meetings on 4/4/18 and 5/9/18 voted unanimously to approve those minutes.

A discussion and vote on the change of the Darien Code relating to the Beautification Commission was moved to the next order of business by unanimous vote.

Mr. Kemp presented Resolution 18-11 and detailed the three amendments to Sections 2-201 through 2-203 of the Darien Code that are being set forth.

The first amendment - to Section 2-201 - would reduce the number of Beautification Commissioners from 13 to 7.

The second amendment - to Section 2-202 - would lessen the notification period for Beautification Commission special meetings from two days' prior notice, as the Darien Code now requires, down to 24 hours' prior notice. This would provide for such prior notice to be in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act of the State of Connecticut.

The third amendment - to Section 2-203 - would delete the hiring authority of the Beautification Commission and require that any hiring of future personnel go through the Human Resources Department of the Town of Darien in accordance with the laws and regulations surrounding employment in said town. The Beautification Commission would, however, be permitted to employ contractors for specific needs - such as the watering of seasonal hanging baskets.

A discussion of the three amendments then followed.

The amendment to Section 2-201 was voted down by a vote of 8 to 1. The majority agreed that more information was needed from the current Beautification Commissioners as to the advisability of reducing their number.

The amendment to Section 2-202 regarding the reduction of the notification period was approved unanimously.

The amendment to Section 2-203 regarding the deletion of any hiring authority of the Beautification Commission was approved unanimously.

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There was then a motion, second, and unanimous vote to table Resolution 18-11 until more information was obtained regarding the reduction of Beautification Commissioners.

Pear Tree Point Amenity Recommendations were then discussed. Mrs. Conniff outlined the recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Commission that will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting. She added that a Building Committee will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen to deal with these and other future Pear Tree Point renovations.

Chairman Conniff then gave the Chairman's Report. Her report included the future objectives of the Parks and Recreation Commission as described in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that the Commission will be looking at in the near future.

The Committee then discussed the Weed Beach Town Party, an event sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Commission, which was held on Saturday, June 2nd. Those committee members in attendance considered it well done and a great success.

Chairman Conniff then reminded the Committee that there will be a rescheduled Public Hearing regarding the Highland Farm property on June 19th.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Hawkins
Clerk