

Minutes from the Darien Parks and Recreation Committee

June 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. with the following members present: Patti Bumgardner, Diane Conologue, Cheryl Russell, Sue-Ellen Mitchell, Sandy Savage, Mark Adiletta, Susan Lauritzen and Bill Van Loan.

A motion was called for and seconded to approve the minutes from the following meetings: January 23, 2019, February 13, 2019, May 13, 2019 and May 28, 2019. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Committee then joined the Finance and Budget Committee meeting to discuss and vote on 19-16 Consideration and action on a gift from the Darien Athletic Foundation (DAF) of up to \$300,000 for the construction of a cross country running path over DHS and Diller properties. A presentation was delivered by the DAF outlining the history of this property and how the decision was made to create a cross country track. Consultants had been hired to maximize the property to create a regulation course. DAF met with the Board of Selectmen and Parks and Recreation to determine the feasibility of such a project. This would be a public/private partnership to create a cross country track around DHS and through the Diller property. Parks and Recreation and the Board of Education will be responsible for the maintenance of this track which was deemed to cost approximately \$4,000-\$5,000 annually. The portion of the path on DHS property will be closed during school hours but will be accessible when school is not in session. A boardwalk over the wetlands will be constructed to form a complete walking loop for community use. It was noted that there would be 1-1 ½ home meets a year and that approximately 100 DHS students participate in the cross country program. It was also noted that six parking spaces would be installed along Nutmeg Lane which would include one handicap spot.

The Parks and Recreation Committee Chair called for a motion to vote on 19-16 which was seconded. The vote was taken with seven in favor and one abstention.

There was a presentation from Public Works regarding the bag ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sue-Ellen Mitchell