

Minutes from the Darien Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

May 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following committee members present: Diane Conologue, Susanne Handler, Cheryl Russell, Sue-Ellen Mitchell, Sandy Savage, Ken Fiveson, Jennifer Moller, Susan Lauritzen, Emily McDermott, Bill Van Loan, Patti Bumgardner and Mark Adiletta.

The first item on the agenda was the Board of Finance Capital and Operating Budget. Diane outlined all of the line items including salary increases. She noted that the basketball court and the backboard have been moved to next years budget.

The Short Lane budget was cut to \$50,000 by the Board of Selectmen due to the Highland Farm appropriation.

The Parks and Recreation Committee voted unanimously for the Board of Finance Capital and Operating Budget and also voted unanimously for the Short Lane appropriation. Patti Bumgardner and Mark Adiletta arrived at the meeting after the first two items were voted on which accounts for the unanimous vote of 10.

The subject then moved on to the Highland Farm budget. Many committee members were concerned about the budget of \$739,972 and thought it was too much money to spend. Diane mentioned that a portion of the work will be done in house by Public Works. There was concern regarding the purpose of the shed and in the ensuing discussion it was noted that the goal of the shed was to house a sit down lawn mower as well as storage for athletic nets. Other concerns voiced were:

1. A large portion of the budget is going to the paving of the parking area when perhaps gravel would be less expensive and more in keeping with the natural environment.
2. Placement of the comfort stations and shed. How big is the shed? Is it smaller than the 1,000 sq. ft. which was approved? Where will they be placed and what is the plan for screening?
3. Concerns regarding the \$739,972 opinion of probable construction cost from Redness and Mead.
4. Why is the Parks and Recreation Committee voting on non Parks and Rec inventory.
5. What is the meaning of state and federal grants mentioned in the resolution.

Given the number of questions, the short notification that the Parks and Recreation Committee had to review the budget and the importance of the

vote, the Parks and Recreation Committee voted unanimously to table the vote on item 19.9 regarding the Highland Farm appropriation to a future date.

Diane also mentioned that there is going to be a vote by the Parks and Recreation Commission on 5/15/19 regarding a smoking ban in town parks.

The Weed Beach Fest is being held on June 1st.

It was noted the Neil Hauk ,the architect for Pear Tree Beach, will be presenting the first plan to the Pear Tree Beach Building Committee and the Parks and Rec Commission in room 119 at 5:30 on 5/15.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sue-Ellen Mitchell