



Jan. 27, 2017
minutes Approved

Winchendon Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes from meeting on January 11th, 2017
at Beals Memorial Library, 2nd Floor

Present: Laura Gaydos, Brian Dickens, Tina Santos, Michaela Benedict

Absent: Jay Pereira, Noel Veilleux

Call to Order: 5:37pm

Agenda: 2016 Year In Review, Annual Report Drafting

The meeting began with Brian Dickens asking the committee to put forth any new business before discussion of subjects on agenda.

Tina Santos spoke about her possession of \$61.80 to be used by the committee for future spending. In December of 2016 she was given a check for \$250.00 by Don O'Neill from the Winchendon Historical Society so that she could buy replacement Christmas tree lights for the Parks committee. Tina purchased ten strings of 100 count lights which cost \$188.20. She possesses the receipts and the aforementioned change.

Brian spoke to the committee's ability to deposit the \$61.80 into Town Of Winchendon's general fund, which, while it would not be directly in our budget, would be earmarked for our committee's use at any point in the future.

It was also discussed and voted unanimously to remove the Christmas lights from the tree each year to avoid damage and vandalism. We would contact the Fire Station to help with this.

(On 1/12, Margaret said the Fire chief told her they took down the lights. Laura will contact the fire station to pick up the lights.)

Tina Santos and Laura Gaydos both spoke to a need for the centralizing of Parks Committee assets, such as extra lights, our Easter bunny costume, and assorted treats and trinkets used for events throughout our annual programming. These items currently reside at the homes

of committee members, in the Town Hall basement and elsewhere in Town Hall. Brian Dickens volunteered the use of a large, plastic, locking foot locker that is unused at his home.

Tina and Laura both recommended that this locker be located at Town Hall, either in the basement or backstage in the 2nd floor auditorium. Tina volunteered to consult the Town Manager's office on this matter.

Moving into material on the agenda, Brian summarized Parks Committee activities in the year 2016. The committee held an Easter Egg Hunt and organized a 7 date concert series. The committee joined in Ingleside Fall Fest activities, and held a 3 date variety show series called First Fridays. Lastly, the annual Christmas tree lighting took place as well. Brian asked for recommendations for improvements or changes to our annual programming.

Laura recommended that more children's activities be added to the summer concert series, in the form of at least one date geared towards younger audiences. Ideas mentioned were scientific/educational entertainment, animal themed shows and/or magicians.

Michaela recommended that the Murdock Key Club, of which she is a member, could be involved in our summer concerts series by vending uncooked foods and beverages at our concerts. Michaela mentioned that she will contact the club's directors about the opportunity.

Brian also mentioned that Little League also runs a concession stand and could be asked to sell snacks as well.

Brian also mentioned the possibility of the committee coordinating with other town organizations to plan and promote a New Year's Eve concert at Town Hall, aimed towards young adults. This event could keep youth away from possibly participating in or being around unhealthy or dangerous behaviors such as underage drinking, drug use and unsafe driving.

Tina mentioned that she was approached by Frank Murphy of the GAR park renovation committee and they would love for us to add icicle lights to the gazebo and discussed the remaining renovations they would like to do with the remaining funds: possibly adding a spotlight on the gazebo to help avoid any vandalism or damage and to place a sidewalk on the Murdock Ave side of the park.

Tina also mentioned it would be great for some P&R members to attend their next meeting to discuss and thank them for the renovations that was done. Their next meeting is on February 15th, 2017, taking place at Winchendon Town Hall on the 4th floor at 9:30am. Brian and Tina mentioned that they would be able to go.

In our last subject on the agenda, the committee discussed our annual report and the necessity of a budget increase for FY 2018.

On January 11th 2017 the Parks Committee had approximately \$900.00 remaining in FY2017's budget. This will narrowly provide enough money to compensate the first two acts of our series in summer 2017. Therefore, the committee spoke about submitting for a budget

increase with our annual report, although the amount/percentage increase was not agreed upon in this meeting.

It was noted by Brian that the placement of flyers in the full coverage issue of the Winchendon Courier (which is sent to every home in coordination with the annual Town Meeting) costs approximately \$400.00. This amount is not available in our budget currently. Also, the average band payment for the series is about \$350.00. For seven acts, this adds up to \$2,450.00, which hypothetically exceeds our FY 2017 budget of \$2,400.

In closing notes, Brian noted the following submissions for our 2017 concert series. Larry Borreia and "Throwback", a 1960's cover band, contacted the committee with an asking price of \$500.00. Also, Richard Page and "Trailer Park" were contacted by Brian, to which the band asked \$700.00.

Committee moved 4-0 to adjourn @ 7:05pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 19th, 2017 at 5:30pm, Town Hall, 4th Floor