

DRAFT

Grantham Recreation Park Committee Meeting

June 2, 2010 7 p.m.

Jerry Whitney Room, Town Hall, Grantham

Attendees: Becky Newton, Missy Walla, Jeff Walla, Marsha Googins, Sarah Johnson, Rick Anderson, Todd Cartier, Jerry Biescszad, Leslie Brown.

- ✓ Meeting opened with Town Administrator Newton commending those who helped with Pepsi and Playground day. Good turnout.
- ✓ Marsha voiced concerns about parking issues at park with new playground. Visitors are driving into property driveway and down rear access road and parking on field. Discussion of habits of this could be an issue with the upcoming listing of the house. Public should not be allowed to get used to parking in that area and using road. Signs still remain in place from Playground opening and will hopefully redirect traffic to back lot near bleachers and port-a-potty. Rear access road and signs have since been put in to deter traffic.
- ✓ More discussion involved access to back of property via the drive and would be stipulated as a construction season use primarily. Town hopes to have Right of way to lot and Right of First Refusal of property.
- ✓ Funds generated from the sale of the property will be put to a vote in March and the committee will need to establish a warrant article asking for access of funds and put into use for park for ball fields.
- ✓ The committee wishes to hold a fundraiser but concerns about alcohol sales are an issue. Options may include support from Harpoon Brewery that will be able to help if we consider a proper and legal location. The committee hopes to approach Eastman to use the Center.
- ✓ Prospective date would be July 29th and would solicit to local residents and businesses to help support funding for the park.
- ✓ Todd French will be asked to help and the idea of exposure on Newport and New London radio stations may be utilized.
- ✓ Marsha will try to contact local musicians to donate their time to provide entertainment.

- ✓ Committee members will be helping with set up, clean up, collection, pouring, etc.
- ✓ *There are hopes that Timken will be providing the Committee with good news in the next few months for grant application that was submitted last winter.
- ✓ Other sponsors will be sought for help with backstop and fencing costs. Todd Cartier had a quote of approximately \$3,800.00.
- ✓ Buy a Brick program is still running through the month of July. Installation of the new playground generated many more sales and this may also be possible during Old Home Days and July 29th event. It is hoped that this program will be self-funding and generate enough to sustain upkeep and development costs.
- ✓ Leslie Brown from the Grantham Village School Building Committee visited to clarify school ball field expectations. Previous discussion between the school and the recreation director mentioned the reduction of the field to 50 foot baselines and removal of the mound. The committee wishes to retain the field as is-although the mound could be removed, and agreed to the suggestion that the infield could be seeded for grass with the baselines exposed. This would still allow for the field to be used by T-ball, Rookie ball and softball. Discussion was generated about movement of the diamond back to original position. Three years ago this was moved out 12 feet to accommodate the modular classroom building. The field will be reconfigured to allow for proper drainage. Dugouts will be removed and fencing hopefully installed to protect teams. Recreation Storage shed and bleachers will remain.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Googins, Sec./ Rec. Director