

PARK COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 9, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Park Commission was held at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)  
Kevin Bellows  
John Scippa  
Joseph DeSabia  
Anthony Chmielewski

Guest:

Ken Martin, 1676 Huntington Tpke, Trumbull Historical Society

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to add to the Agenda Trumbull Historical Society requests to be presented by Mr. Martin.

Ken Martin on behalf of Trumbull Historical Society:

He expressed appreciation to the Commission for allowing the Historical Society use the Abraham Nichols Park upper level cottage which is contiguous with the Historical Society's building, as a location to conduct their summer art camp which was very successful. They feel that building has a lot of potential for other venues.

- He discussed with the Commission use of the cottage for two fall/winter programs one November 29, 2009 for a Topiary Craft Program for about 12 people and on December 6, 2009 for a Kids Crafts/Holiday Ornaments Program, again for approximately 12/14 youngsters.
- While the Commission was amenable to the Historical Society hosting program at that location, the building is used for off-season storage (which could be moved out) but the building has no heat and water is drained at that time of year. Mr. Martin indicated because of the heat problem, he would look for another location.
- Upon request, the Superintendent will bring their historic sleigh out from barn storage prior to November 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Martin reviewed for the Commission the Historical Society's support for the Town purchase of 579 Church Hill Road, contiguous with the Helen Plumb Building (historic Town Hall) which is right at the beginning of the newly created Rail Trail through the Valley for the purpose of creating a Welcome Center and Museum at the gateway of the Valley to help preserve the historic significance of the Trail and nearby sites. The house built in 1930 was built as a Station Master's House and has historic significance to that location and would enhance the properties around it. It was thought that two lavatories could be installed at that location as a convenience for trail users. The Land Acquisition Commission has approved the purchase and the proposal now goes before the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 referral, then to the Board of Finance for funding and the Town Council for adoption. He requested a statement of support of the purchase from the Park Commission as well.

- The Historical Society will sponsor a Bus Tour (utilizing two Senior Citizen Busses) of Daniels Farm Road historic area, Beach Memorial Park and Pinewood Lake on November 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. They would like to utilize the Helen Plumb Building for a 15 minute lavatory break that morning. (Clerk scheduled the building for them. They were reminded that anything brought into the building needs to be removed and that the key may be picked up a day in advance at the First Selectman's Office.)
- He requested permission to install two plexi-glass covered signs on the posts at the entrance to the Valley Path in from Church Hill Road to display the Valley Map and Description of historic locations for users to view before accessing the Trail.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to return to the order of the Agenda.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the October meeting and ratify actions of the June, July, August, September and October meetings.

**MOTION** by Mr. Scippa, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve the following Historical Society requests as presented:

- Superintendent will bring their historic sleigh out from barn storage prior to November 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Statement of support by the Park Commission for the Town purchase of 579 Church Hill Road, contiguous with the Helen Plumb Building (historic Town Hall) for the purpose of creating a Welcome Center and Museum at the gateway of the Valley to help preserve the historic significance of the Trail and nearby sites.
- Permission to install two plexi-glass covered signs on the posts at the entrance to the Valley Path in from Church Hill Road to display the Valley Map and Description of Historic Locations for users to view before accessing the Trail.

Correspondence:

Request from Trumbull Babe Ruth League to schedule the rebuilding of the Unity Park field mound next spring. They feel it is the one significant improvement that they need for the coming year.

- Superintendent indicated that his opinion is that the mound and surrounding sod should be rebuilt and from proper mound clay. This could be accomplished with town manpower; however, the costs associated with materials would need to be absorbed by their league. However, he feels that considering the significant costs associated with this; it is important that their maintenance staff have a solid understanding of what proper techniques to maintain a hard mound are so as not to irreparably damage it inadvertently.

- Also, the drainage problems would take significant time to correct.
- Irrigation lines and significant grading and sod work are all needed to address this problem.
- Superintendent indicated that the perpetual adding of clay is actually contributing to the long-term problem.

Superintendent indicated that the Park Department has no plans for doing this project at the Babe Ruth field this spring; however, he will discuss any or all of this with them over the winter.

Discussion on whether it would be wise for Babe Ruth League to contract for this project unless proper maintenance to preserve the rebuild could be accomplished.

**CONSENSUS** of agreement with the Superintendent recommendations on Babe Ruth League request to rebuilding of the Unity Park field mound next spring.

Discussion on Letter to the Editor on field closures. Superintendent review the current procedure for closing fields. Rangers or Superintendent make an early morning weather and field conditions determination, leagues have the authority to change the call if these conditions have altered by the time of play; however, with resident pick-up games the only determination is the one determined by the Rangers or Superintendent. At all times when a field is closed for repair or weather conditions, we offer another field as close by as possible which is available for pick-up play.

Recreation Director indicated that Trumbull United surveyed area towns who all closed for wet weather conditions on the date indicated in the letter to the editor. Trumbull was consistent with the decisions of other communities.

**CONSENSUS** of the Commission is to stay with the current procedure for closing fields of Rangers or Superintendent making an early morning weather and field conditions determination with leagues having the authority to change the call if these conditions have altered by the time of play; however, with resident pick-up games the only determination is the one made by the Rangers or Superintendent and whenever possible offering another field which may be available.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe  
Clerical Administrative Asst.

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