

Town of Montville Parks & Recreation Commission
Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall - Town Council Chambers
MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to order--Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Scott LaVallie at 6:32
2. Roll Call--Commissioners present were Commissioners delacruz, LaVallie, Lawton, Maffeo and Perkins. Absent were Commissioners Berardy, Cicchese, Geiler and Hillman. Also present were Director Bushway and Councilor Tanner.
3. Adjustments to the agenda--None made
4. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the agenda with a three minute limit-- Chris Lawton, 66 Church Rd, Oakdale, spoke in regards to his proposal to have a dog park. He has met with the group and they have compared notes regarding other town's dog parks. He has spoken with a number of residents who would like to have a dog park in Montville, and submitted to the Commission a number of signatures in support of it. The proposal has no cost to the town to run, the only cost would be mowing.

If it is approved, he would like to see a sub-committee formed under the Parks and Recreation Commission to oversee what is proposed. The group would fundraise and apply for grants. He would like to see this come to the town.

Peter Bushway let Mr. Lawton know that the group did a great job on the proposal and asked that the Commission have time to review it and digest its contents. He asked Commissioners to submit questions to him and he would forward them to Mr. Lawton and it will be on next month's agenda.

Mr. Lawton asked the Commission to look at the website and Facebook page for the dog park.

Don Concascia, 1043 East Lake Road, Oakdale, spoke on behalf of the Montville Wrestling program. He apologized for not being able to get in earlier to give an update, something he likes to do to keep the Commission up to date. He informed the Commission there were 55 participants this past season, which is from November - March. 75% of the participants participated in tournaments, 25% made it to States in New Haven and 3 went to the New England Championship in Philadelphia. The organization is very proud of their accomplishments. He stated that year after year he is asked, "how is it that your group does so well and keeps growing so quickly"? He answers they are successful due to the support of the Parks and Recreation Department and parent/volunteer involvement. With that support they are able to keep growing and get great coaches,

The second reason he was in front of the Commission was to address the space and facility issue. He understands the need for space and how everyone feels their program

is better than the next but he explained the importance of keeping wrestling at Fair Oaks. He stated they run their kids hard on the weekends, and there isn't a more fit athlete than a wrestler. It is important for the Commission to understand they are the feeder program to the high school, without a feeder program there is no high school program. He said someone recently made a comment about the dump and how Montville is proud of it's dump, but in reality nothing makes you prouder than when our high schools wins in sports.

He feels their program is being compared to the Zumba program and he would prefer to be compared to the local little league, football league or lacrosse league.

He stated their program runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They take Monday off to give the body a break and take Friday off to allow them to be ready for the weekend tournaments,

Commissioner LaVallie states space is a premium and they have lots of programs to find space for.

Director Bushway stated he showed the town hall space to the wrestling program.

Mr. Concascia stated its not about where the programs takes place but when, they can't be split. He also stated they have doubled their numbers in the last couple of years.

4. To consider and act on a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 20, 2013--Commissioner Delacruz made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Maffeo 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

5. To consider and act on a motion to review and approve the Director's Report for April 2013--Commissioner Lawton made a motion to accept the Director's Report as written, Commissioner Maffeo 2nd. During discussion, Mr. Bushway added the Easter egg hunt was fun and they had turnout was more than expected. The Masons are looking to expand the egg count from 5,000 to 7,000.

Commissioner Lawton spoke to Steve Elci who reduced his rate from \$600 to \$500, she booked him for July 30th and will contact Ben and Jerry's.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports from Finance--Mr. Bushway reported he may have to make some adjustments next month. the Parks and Recreation Department must conduct preparedness course for counselors in the event of a tragic situation.

There are 6 new staff members for the summer camp, the program lost a few staff due to other job opportunities and moving. They will need to train new employees. All training will be done the week prior to the children starting.

Commissioner Maffeo stated the training for emergency preparation should only take an hour at most. He questioned what happens if something happens while the children are outside. He also addressed his concern about someone coming in to do the training when many already work in the school system or are students and know what procedures need to be done. Mr. Bushway stated there is no fee for the training just the overtime for the employees.

Mr. Bushway stated the sound system is still needed; he hasn't ordered it as of yet. Commissioner Perkins asked if it has already been approved, and it keeps coming up, why hasn't it been ordered yet. Mr. Bushway stated it is \$3,000 and he has to jump through Town procedure to getting ordered.

Mr. Bushway informed the Commission the dance mirrors will be ordered next month. He also informed them the dance recital will take place at MHS instead of the Camp Oakdale Pavilion. It will take place on June 28th from 5:30 - 7:00.

Commissioner LaVallie suggested to move the money from the basketball line to get started. He also feels the sound systems needs to get ordered ASAP.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Community Tag Sale--Commissioner Delacruz reported it will take place on June 8, 2013, the fee will remain at \$10 per space, 24 spaces were sold last year. Commissioner LaVallie suggested keeping the fee at \$10 as it is more of a service versus a money maker. Commissioner Lawton stated they will rope off the front and only allow for pick up. Volunteers needed to direct traffic.

Commissioner Delacruz suggested waiving the fee for Ellen Desjardins, who will be selling annuals and perennials. She does a lot of work with the Town's gardens. The Commission agreed it was ok to waive her fee.

Mr. Bushway reported he has had no luck with getting at farmers as of yet. Commissioner Delacruz inquired if she could ask a friend to sell baked goods at a table, she has a home business selling pies and baked goods. The Commission agreed they would allow this. Commissioner LaVallie stated maybe next year the Commission would look at the fee structure for a home business versus a vendor.

The Commission agreed they would cap the the number of vendors at 32

b. Community Booklet--Mr. Bushway reported they have finally decided the next booklet will be part of the monthly advertising insert. He stated Michael Allyn will be able to turn around the information. He stated Youth Services and Social Services and Senior Center are on board with using Mr. Allyn who is charging a flat rate of &1,900.00 for all three groups.

The drop dead line to get information has not been set yet.

8. New Business

a. Camp Counselor interviews – week of April 15th--Mr. Bushway reported he has been conducting interviews all week. Applicants have been very good; overall, better than past years which is very encouraging. There are more high school students than before.

Commissioner Perkins asked if Montville applicants have preference. Mr. Bushway stated, yes they try to keep it locally.

b. Trails Day--Commissioner Lawton reported it will take place in June 2nd and they will follow the same format as last year.

10. Correspondence--Mr. Bushway shared a photo Public Works had sent him of damage done to field 2 at Camp Oakdale by an automobile. The gate was unlocked and the car was able to access the field through the open gate. There was discussion about having the Police Department making it part of their nightly travels to go to Camp Oakdale and ensure the gate is locked. Mr. Bushway stated there has been discussion about moving the gate all together.

11. Facilities Requests--None

12. Remarks from the Public--None

13. Remarks from the Commissioners--Commissioner Lawton questioned dogs on the facilities and trails. Should the Commission bring up the ordinance again to no allow dogs on the fields. Commissioner LaVallie asked that this item be placed on next months agenda.

Commissioner Delacruz stated she hopes people take part in the tag sale,

Commissioner LaVallie stated that when the Commission looks at the dog park proposal they keep in mind the best use of space. The programs are growing like soccer and lacrosse. Just ask that we keep everything in perspective on how we want to use the limited space.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison, Laura Tanner--She asked the Commission to take time to review the packet she gave them regarding the documentation on the use of the Senior Center. She understands there is a lot of information in the packet but she hopes it will address and answer their concerns.

Commissioner LaVallie thanked Councilor Tanner for the information. He stated they had asked for it previously and was never really given it. Whether they agree or disagree with the information they have to go by what it states.

15. Adjournment--Commissioner Maffeo made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Perkins 2nd. Motioned carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:00.