**GILFORD PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**May 3, 2021**

**Present:**  Herb Greene, Peter Allen, Rick Nelson, Tracey Blandford, Jim Glover Thom Francoeur, and Miriam York.

Excused: Dave Smith and Lisa Manz-Buckley

The meeting was called to order by Rick Nelson at 5:30.

1. Peter was appointed as a voting member.
2. **Minutes**:

Minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

1. **Election of officers:**

Thom made the motion and Peter seconded it to keep the officers the same and they are – Rick Nelson Chairman, Thom Francoeur, Vice Chairman, and Miriam York, Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Program Update:**

Herb reviewed the Director’s report. The archery program will continue with a new instructor and will still be held at the ice rink.

**5. Old Home Day (August 28, 2021):**

The OHD Committee will hold their second meeting on May 5th. Things may be different this year depending on where the area is with the COVID pandemic. Stay tuned as things change on a regular basis.

1. **Village Field:**

The dugouts at the Francoeur Field are almost finished. The tennis courts will be resurfaced in mid June as soon as the HS tennis teams are done for the season. The bandstand needs work done on the floor as several of the boards have rotted. The underpinnings need to be checked out also. The roof may need work in another year. There will be a limited number of band concerts this summer and they will be held in the outdoor quad by the MS so that the musicians can be spread out more.

1. **Beach:**

Herb has advertised for lifeguards but we are down to 5 lifeguards and 1 beach manager compared to last year when we had 14 staff and 1 manager. Herb will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen next week to discuss how to compensate for the lack of lifeguards. Options may include not actively guarding the beach or offering swim lessons this year and having lifeguard staff patrol the beach. This would allow them to keep an eye on things and be able to respond if any rescues when needed. There was discussion about the raft and the commission members had concerns about the number of rescues have taken place with swimmers either going to or from the raft. There were concerns about the safety of the raft being on the beach but it is too heavy to move without damaging it. Herb will also discuss these concerns with the Board of Selectmen. The lifeguard stands may not get built this year but may not be needed. The seventh graders will be doing their beach cleanup on the Friday before Memorial Day.

1. **Lincoln Park:**

The trees that could be cut along the shoreline have been taken down by DPW and they are coordinating with a tree service to take some limbs down from one of the large pine trees to open up the view.

1. **Stonewall Park:**

The new scoreboard has been installed and looks great. The electrical wiring is done and field repair is underway. The Cal Ripken League has had the sprinklers serviced at Stonewall Park as well as the Francoeur Field. The Commission reviewed a request from the Cal Ripken Baseball League to allow signs to be put on their concession buildings at Stonewall Park and the Francoeur Field from April through November. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Rick Nelson and seconded by Thom Francoeur that read, “No permanently affixed commercial signs are to be put up on buildings or dugouts at either the Stonewall Park or Francoeur Fields. Temporary commercial signs may be put up on game days, but must be taken down after the game.” The motion passed by a unanimous vote. There is currently one sign that is affixed to the Stonewall Park building that needs to come down.

1. **Facility Use Request:**

The request by the high school to have a bonfire at the beach was rescinded.

The Gilford Police will hold an employee appreciation night at Gilford Beach on May 13th, and this was approved by all.

1. **Other business:**

Herb will be on vacation the week of May 15 – 23.

**Next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2021 at 5:30 at the Town Hall.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam A. York

Secretary

Enclosure: Director’s Report