

**Recreation Commission**  
**Wednesday, January 11, 2017**  
**7:00pm**

A meeting of the Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at the Youth Center located on Pike Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. The following were in attendance:

John Faggione	Debbie Cunningham
Dawn Jones, Vice Chair	Noleen Casey Tomasi
Mike Latini	Amanda Sexton, Youth Member
Gina Fitzpatrick, Liaison	Harry Tomasi, Youth Member

Absent: Tom Hoppey, Chairman, Erika Ropke Polanis, Brandy Figueroa

A motion to approve the minutes and report from November and the 2016 End of the Year Report was made by Noleen and seconded by Debbie. All those in favor:

Aye: 4      Nay: 0      Absent: 3

Public Comment: None

**New Business**

John reviewed the Special Events Calendar for 2017 for approval. A motion to approve the calendar was made by Dawn and seconded by Debbie. All those in favor:

Aye: 4      Nay: 0      Absent: 3

John explained that the City put out an RFP (request for proposal) in regards to the cycling series races in the Watershed Park tentatively scheduled for the upcoming year. If a proposal is submitted and accepted by the City then the Recreation Department will not be the lead on organizing and running these mountain bike races. John will keep the Commission updated.

Both winter field trips have been posted on Facebook. The Recreation Department will be going to Fernwood Resort on 1/19/17 to snow tube. This trip is filling up fast. The second trip is scheduled for 2/11 and will be to the Mohegan Sun Casino. Spread the word.

The West End sleigh riding hill is set up and ready to go.

John discussed the possible future development of Farnum House with the Commission as a new Recreation Center with the additional construction of a gymnasium.

Securitel, a private security business from Long Island, NY, made a generous \$500 donation and is also donating a security camera to the Youth Center. A thank you note has been sent.

John had to review the submitted budget for 2017 to revise and make reductions. John reduced the budget by \$11,000, submitted it again, and it was approved. He discussed some of the changes that were needed.

Church Street Park, lower level, will be closed for the winter. John is often asked about it being open on nice days, but it will remain closed for the season. Point Peter Park gate will be closed for winter as well. The road will not be plowed. Trails are still accessible by foot.

John read local law #3 in regards to the Watershed Park.

John discussed the possibility of getting a replacement vehicle through Capital Note and an additional vehicle to help with the maintenance of the trails. John reviewed the details and showed pictures of different options. John would like to consider using major project funds to purchase this type of vehicle if it is not approved by the council. He will keep everyone updated.

### **Old Business**

John reviewed the numbers from the Youth Center. Attendance is steady.

The Youth Center served as a drop off site for Santa's Toy Box, again, this year. The community was helpful and donated toys to the local children. Dawn suggested that John get names of families that are requesting to be helped to ensure that they are not already receiving help from another organization.

Co-Ed Youth Basketball has had a great turnout. The league will start on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Adult Basketball is going well on Sunday mornings at ASK. Rosey Forbes is the instructor. This program is scheduled to end late March.

Trails are open for the winter. Motorized vehicles are not allowed. Hikers are asked to carry out what they carry in.

Youth Members: Members gave a summary of the events happening in school this winter.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm was made by Noleen and seconded by Dawn. All those in favor:

Aye: 4      Nay: 0      Absent: 3

**NEXT MEETING:  
Thursday, February 16, 2017  
7:00pm**