

Town of Seymour Parks Commission



Monthly Meeting - November 23, 2009

Members Present: Ray Faustich, Bob Lang, Mike Gargano, Bill Paecht, Joe Hernandez

Guests Present: Bill Uluski & Paul Raymond - Seymour Men's Softball, Sue Rafferty - LoPresti PTA, Alex Danka - Seymour Land Trust

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President, Bill Paecht

The October 26, 2009 minutes were approved. Motion by Ray, 2nd, Mike, All in favor,

Parks Issues

Bill Uluski read a statement about the condition of Matthies Park. Over 120 softball games have been postponed this year due to field conditions. The spring/summer schedule was finally completed on November 17. Bill and Paul Raymond expounded on the drainage problems. The long term solution is to dig up the field and put in proper drainage. A short term solution might be to crown the field. Better quality clay is needed as the infield is rock hard and several light bulbs have been out all year.

Sue Rafferty expressed concern about vandalism at the LoPresti School playground. She would like to see the playground considered for security cameras. Recently, a vehicle drove past the unlocked gate and damaged a piece of equipment. Northeast Utilities would donate poles for cameras or lighting.

Alex Danka expressed concerns about the deplorable conditions of town parks. He would like to see increased spending for parks, increasing our

budget to \$200,000. Many volunteers have become discouraged by the repeated vandalism and the poor condition of the parks.

Bob mentioned that a 12U travel baseball team is being formed in town and they will need a baseball field with 70 foot bases. Chatfield Park might be adapted to their use but we need more information about how much usage there will be as the park is presently used for LL baseball.

Ray reported that all soccer goals have been chained and the nets stored away. He was satisfied with the soccer field conditions and their maintenance.

Wind screens are still up at most baseball and softball fields and must be put away.

Pop Warner's season is over and there were few problems. They still need lighting for Gesek Field and will need to put up two more poles.

Gary Park is missing some of the new orange fencing.

At Broad Street Park one of the existing trees has been decorated and the gazebo was painted by Seymour Pride volunteers.

Bill met with Dennis Rozum and electrician Bill Jarvis about lighting up the Civil War monument at French Park.

We have to put together another 5 year plan to present to the first selectman and the Board of Finance.

Scheduling Software

The board discussed at length the much needed scheduling software. Mike and Bob have already had a demo of EMS Lite and were impressed with its capabilities. It was decided to set up another online demonstration of the EMS Lite software. Bob is to call the company and arrange the demo for Monday, November 30 or Wednesday, December 2 at 7:00. We hope to be able to approve software at our December meeting.

Field Usage Issues

Ray again brought up that individuals are utilizing town fields to give lessons to individuals or groups and are being compensated for this. They have never come before the board or requested a permit to conduct their lessons. He was concerned with liability issues. He also was concerned with equipment

owned by private groups that is left on town parks. Bill stated that we are in limbo now and after the new administration takes over, we can seek rulings on these issues.

Grant Applications

The board discussed our problems with obtaining grants. Ray felt we should provide the grant writer with more specifics and give her more direction.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM. Motion by Ray, 2nd, Joe.
All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lang
Secretary, Parks Commission