

Madison Beach and Recreation Department
Bauer Park Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2017

In attendance: Ted Rahmann, Holly Johnson, Ann Judd, John Paulson, Sue Stark, Jim Henneberry, Tom Kelty

Absent: Scot Erskine, Julie Ainsworth

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

1. Approval of November 30, 2016 meeting minutes. Holly made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for November. Jim seconded. All in favor with Tom abstaining.
2. Public Comments –
 - a. Thomas Kelly, Menunkatuck Audubon Society, gave a presentation on barn owls and the need to provide them with nesting boxes because they are currently endangered in CT. This is a new project for the Menunkatuck group, and they think that Bauer Park would provide an appropriate location to install one of their boxes since there are enough acres of open field for hunting owls. Such a box would have to be installed by the end of March which is when the owls begin to nest. If a nest box is installed, it would need to be monitored to ensure that it is not taken over by starlings or sparrows. Monitoring could be done along with the monitoring that is already done of the bluebird boxes.
 - b. Mr. Kelly said that he could provide us with plans for the nesting box and we could then build it ourselves. He would consult with us as to the best location for the box to be installed. Ann made a motion to proceed with the project; Holly seconded. All in favor.
3. Chairman's Report –
 - a. The Beach and Rec. Commission has approved the Bauer Park Facility Use Regulations.
 - b. The old tractor from the shed was repaired and is now running. It will not be repainted but will be given a clear coat to prevent further rusting and deterioration of the surface.
4. Election of Officers – Sue made a motion that the current slate of officers (Chair, Ted Rahmann; Vice Chair, Holly Johnson; Secretary, Ann Judd) remain in place for another year; Jim seconded. All were in favor.
5. Sections Reports –
 - a. Volunteer Coordinators Report – nothing to report.

- b. Building and Grounds – brush clearing around the ponds was a little overzealous, and native species such as winterberry were cut down as well as invasive species such as bittersweet.
 - c. Public Relations and Publicity Report – Julie Ainsworth has taken over FaceBook postings.
 - d. Gardens Report –
 - i. Holly has made revisions to the garden rules and application form. This will be sent out within the next week or so. Renewing gardeners will have until the end of March to reclaim their plots.
 - e. Education Report – many activities going on both at the park and in the schools including five maple sugaring programs. Spring programs will be posted soon.
6. Old Business –
- a. 5-year Plan – Scot has all the notes from what was done previously. Ted suggested that a priority should be to develop a master map of the park with overlays showing potential locations for benches, new trees, etc.
 - b. Dog Park – nothing to report.
7. Harvest Festival – the first meeting will be held on March 6 at 7:00 pm.
8. New Business – Ted presented the proposed meeting schedule for January 2017 through January 2018. All meetings will begin at 7:00 and the schedule will be corrected so that the January 2018 meeting reflects that. Holly moved to accept the corrected schedule; Ann seconded. All in favor.

Adjournment

Motion made by Holly to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Sue and all in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.