

**Mendham Township Recreation Commission**  
**May 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas at 7:00 P.M.

Commissioners present: Thomas, Duarte, Button, TC Liaison Thomas, Kemp, Russell and Tolley.  
Also present, Peter Wright, Recreation Director

The Salute to the Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance was made by all present.

Commissioner Duarte updated the Commission on the Patriots' Race sharing that 10 -11 sponsors are expected to support the race this year. She will revisit those sponsors yet to come forward with their anticipated sponsorship. The 8 kilometer course has been certified and will not run through the Middle School parking lot. All food supplies have been arranged. T-shirt order has been placed. Commissioner Button volunteered to contact local merchants requesting gift cards for door prizes as in the past. Runner preregistration is approximately 80. The bulk of the runners will sign up just before or the morning of the race. Once again the run is scheduled for Saturday June 20.

Wright reported that as of the meeting we had not received any applications for the two scholarships the race sponsors. The Commission asked Wright to remind last year's beach staff and those applying for this season that applications are being accepted.

Wright updated the Commission on Brookside Beach. Renewal e-mails were sent out to last year's membership (approximately 75 families) late last month. The dredging of the lake will take place after Labor Day. The Department of Public Works is once again preparing the site for the season. Staff interviews will be held on Saturday May 9. Backstroke handles per race lanes need to be installed. DPW will be helping out with this need.

Wright updated the Commissioners on Ralston Playground. The site is in need of repair/replacement. A majority of the playground pieces do not meet recommended safety standards. A representative from Ben Shaffer Associates visited the site with Wright and has presented a plan to replace the equipment, either in total or phased. Estimated cost for the total replacement is approximately \$180,000.

**Mission Statement of the Mendham Township Recreation Commission**

To provide recreation opportunities for all ages which enhance the lives of those we serve in the Mendham community.

## 2015 Goals

- 1) Focus on the development of adult programming with an emphasis on social, educational and interactive program offerings.
- 2) Evaluation of all property sites available in the Township with an overview of how each site can be part of a coordinated-complimentary system of active parks and passive recreation areas that meet the needs of our residents.
- 3) Be a resource to the Township Committee in the continued development of Meadow Wood, Mosle, Pitney, Brookside Beach, Wysong, Tempe Wick and other sites planned use for open space and recreation facilities within the Township.
- 4) Continue to increase revenues from the Patriot's Run by developing new corporate/business sponsorships/partnerships to under-write event overhead.
- 5) Continue planned improvements to Brookside Beach that will attract membership growth and profitability. Brookside Beach will continue to be an excellent source for seasonal employment for the youth of the community.
- 6) Embrace and maximize use of social media for the promotion and marketing of the Department's programs and facilities offered to our residents.
- 7) Repair and upkeep of the Mount Pleasant Tennis Courts to allow for greater use through league play and instructional programs.
- 8) Replace Ralston Playground at Wysong Park through donations, grants and any other available sources of funding.
- 9) Develop a 15-Year Park Maintenance Program detailing annual operating costs and planned capital improvement needs. This plan will become an administrative tool for the education of our users on the costs of operation and an outline for the Township Committee of when improvements – capital repairs needed at each site.
- 10) Continue to measure our residents leisure time interests to allow the Commission to efficiently and effectively plan to offer and administer those activities.

### Ralston Playground

Wright explained to the Commissioners that the portions of the playground do not meet recommended safety standards. Wright presented a conceptual plan for the refurbishment of the Ralston Playground from Ben Shaffer & Associates. Wright noted that Plan included cost estimates for a complete rebuilding of the facility and a breakdown of cost per unit. He stated that this is just some ideas that designer developed from his visit to the site. Cost estimates range from \$130,000 to \$180,000 for the work. The Commission shared some ideas and comments and agreed that this was a good tool for moving forward with the plans to work on the site.

No comments from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Gary Russell, Commissioner