

DURHAM RECREATION MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2008

The Park and Recreation Committee met at Town Hall on Wednesday, April 23, 2008.

Chairperson Kate McLaughlin called the meeting to order @ 7:05 PM.

Members present: Kate McLaughlin, Linda Handley, Chris Manemeit, Mike Doyle, Ann Figoras, Cheryl Salva, Toby Bates, Karen Kean (alt) Sherry Hill.

Members absent: Joan Bowe, Liz Cipollina, Brendan O'Connell(alt).

New member Toby Bates was introduced and welcomed.

Minutes from March Special Meeting were read. A motion to accept minutes was made by Ann Figoras and seconded by Chris Manemeit.

All agreed the Easter Egg Hunt went well, perhaps the best attendance we've seen. All agreed using the real eggs donated by Hi-Land Farms makes it special.

Summer Concert Schedule was discussed. Sherry has made contact with Middlefield Symphonic Band and is arranging dates. Karen Kean is in contact with Lisa Sidono (formally of "Heartland") for a concert late in June.

Recruitment for Summer Staff has begun. Advertisements have been placed for interested parties to apply for positions for Summer Playground, Little People and Night Rec. Applications are available in Town Hall. Applications need to be received by Friday, May 9th. Playground Supervisor/Assistant Program Director position is also being recruited.

Guest speaker Chuck Romondo representing American Ramp Co. graciously fielded questions regarding skate parks. Mr. Romondo and his company have installed 50 – 60 skate parks in New England. Mr. Romondo brought catalogs and samples of surface materials. Mr. Romondo informed us that "X Game" sports such as skate boarding and BMX biking have become the "fastest growing sport second only to the NFL and College Football". He also noted that, nationally, there has been a decrease in traditional team sports. He remarked that this is a popular sport that towns have left behind. Included in the discussion were the greatest obstacles which towns must address: location, funding and insurance. Issues such as maintenance, and security were also addressed. Maintenance on the parks varied by the choice of surface material whereas some materials are more susceptible to damaged due to wear and tear and climate changes. Mr. Romondo informed us that many towns opt for "self policing" rather than having an attendant at the site. Mr. Romondo reminded us that "If your town does not have a skate park your town becomes the skate park." The Committee was grateful to Mr. Romondo for sharing his time and his expertise.

Digging has begun at Allen Brook Park and installation of the new playground should be completed by Friday, April 25th.

Sherry has made contact with the Durham Exchange Club regarding repairs to the Pavilion at Allen Brook Park.

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Kim Garvis, Town Clerk

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Torrison Stone will sponsor the Summer Fun Runs. Sponsorship will include Tee Shirts and Drinks.

Sherry would like to add more heavy weight picnic tables in the park. Toby Bates will enlist the help of Boy Scout Troop 27.

Mike Doyle has been hard at work at Camp Farnum. Coginchaug High School together with Americares Volunteer Organization will be working at the camp on Saturday, May 3 and may be able to send some students to help clean up Allen Brook Park.

Upcoming 2008 Activities: May 23rd, Concert and Ribbon Cutting ceremony at new playground.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2008

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate McLaughlin, Chairperson