

**MINUTES
CHARLESTOWN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2012 @ 7:00 pm
OPEN MEETING / TOWN HALL / COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER @ 7:03 PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Paula Andersen, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Cheryl Dowdell, Jodi Frank, Richard Horstmann, Peter Slom, Donna Greene, Tim Quillen, Jay Primiano – Parks and Recreation Director, Vicky Hilton – Program Manager, Greg Avedisian – Town Council Liaison

Absent: Jill Cuddy, Sonita Cummings, Tom Nowell

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 4/30/12

Motion made by Tim Quillen to approve minutes. Second by Richard Horstmann. All in favor.

IV. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Mr. Jim Farrell from Bussin' Buddies, a small group of motor coach campers, would like to utilize Ninigret Park August 24th – 26th. This group has attended the Seafood Festival and is familiar with Ninigret Park. He explained one of the benefits of allowing the group to camp in Ninigret Park is the business they will bring to the local businesses of Charlestown. He noted that the group does this once a month in different areas of New England.

Ms. Andersen mentioned that there was a previous group that use to camp in Ninigret, similar to this and the Commission had allowed that. Parks and Recreation will check previous files. Mr. Farrell's application will be placed on the June agenda.

V. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Avedisian updated the Commission on recent actions taken at the previous Town Council meeting.

Mr. Primiano mentioned that the Naval Airfield Memorial was approved. He also stated that the request from the Chariho Cowboys for the use of the lighting from the old driving range was approved.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED - none

VII. PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Primiano spoke about a Ninigret Park application for tennis court reservations. There was a question regarding the appropriate fee for this type of reservation. It was noted that this particular request was charged \$25 for their reservation. Discussion was held regarding fees for 'tennis court' reservations. This item will be placed on the June agenda.

Motion made by Tim Quillen to accept Ninigret Park application as is. Second by Donna Greene. 8 in favor, 1 recusal (Cheryl Dowdell)

A Charlestown citizen (Ms. Kent) asked Mr. Primiano about the number of available spots to local people at Blue Shutters. She inquired as to the number of passes sold, noting the percentage of passes that are sold does not relate to the number of spaces that we have available to people for the period of time we have it available to them. She would like us to look at this issue. Ms. Andersen stated that the issue of beach passes was recently addressed and passed per Town Ordinance #348, as Amended by the Town Council at the May 14th meeting. The ordinance allows 3 passes to be sold per household. She recognizes that there are only so many parking spaces at the beaches but it

has always been a first come first serve basis. It was mentioned among the commission members that this has happened to them in the past, not only here, but in other towns too but stated once again, it's first come first serve and beaches do get busy in the summer. Mr. Primiano mentioned that Ms. Kent suggested that his staff is telling the public that it was his rule. It was reiterated by Ms. Andersen that the number of beach passes sold was determined and voted on by the Town Council.

Mr. Primiano gave an update on the beach pavilions. He indicated that the Town Beach pavilion is scheduled to open in time for the Memorial Day Weekend. The Blue Shutters pavilion will be ready shortly thereafter. He reiterated the ribbon cutting ceremony for both beach pavilions will be held at Town Beach on May 24th and all are invited.

Mr. Primiano stated that the 4 older tennis courts at Ninigret Park have been power washed and cracks have been filled. They will soon be painted and ready for use.

VIII. PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Hilton spoke about an archery program that she is looking to bring to the summer camp this season. It will be for campers only. There will be a professional instructor and safety measures will be taken.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Updates - none

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ninigret Park Blueberry Path – this item will be addressed at a later date

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and possible action regarding fees for Non-Profits requesting the use of Ninigret Park – this item will be discussed at the next Parks and Recreation meeting.

B. Ninigret Park Master Plan RFP – it was reiterated that in a previous Parks and Recreation Commission meeting the following points were recommended as priorities for the Ninigret Park Master Plan to be forwarded to the Town Council

1. Electrical – including high speed cable and fiber optic cable
2. Events Center
3. Entrance and Exits to the park

Further discussion will be held at the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

XII. SPECIAL PROJECTS - none

XIII. COMMISSION COMMENTS

XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE - TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2012 @ 7:00 PM

XV. ADJOURNMENT @ 8:33 PM

Motion made by Tim Quillen to adjourn. Second by Richard Horstmann.

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Parks and Recreation Commission approved 6/26/12