

**Minutes**  
**Alton Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**September 25, 2008**  
**A.V.A.S. Building, 6:30pm**

Members Present: William Lionetta, Gerry Theodora, Peter Bolster.

Member Excused Absent: C. Johnson

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle

***Call To Order***

W. Lionetta called the Meeting to order at 6:40pm.

***Approval of Agenda***

G. Theodora made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented; motion was seconded by P. Bolster and passed.

***Approval of Minutes 3-13-08 and 8-21-08***

W. Lionetta made a motion to approve the Minutes of 3.13.08, motion was seconded by G. Theodora and passed. W. Lionetta made a motion to approve the Minutes of 8.21.08, motion was seconded by G. Theodora and passed.

***Public Input***

There was no public input.

***Appointment with Liz Shelton, Flag Football***

The Commission met with Liz Shelton, representing the Flag Football Club. Mrs. Shelton was interested in the Parks and Recreation Department sponsoring a Flag Football Program for middle school children (Grades 6-8). Currently the Flag Football Club is using the Alton Central School field and they practice two times per week and play one game per week. There are 24 kids registered and the club has balls, cones/discs and belts with flags. The club is looking to show community support and interest for football in the hope of having a future football team at Prospect Mountain High School. Mrs. Shelton said the flag football program was an affordable alternative that provided a needed outlet for kids. Mrs. Shelton said the current program uses a co-ed format of : 4 vs. 4; 5 vs. 5 or 6 vs. 6- depending on how many players show up and they rotate the players in. The season runs from the first week of school to daylight savings time. K. Troendle said there is a NFL Flag Football Program in association with the National Recreation and Park Association where they charge \$20.00 per player and the player receives a reversible jersey, belt with flags and 2 balls per team. The Town of Exeter is running the NFL Flag Football program and they charge \$35.00 (\$20 goes toward NFL) to help pay for officials and other supplies. The Commission noted that the program does compete with the existing soccer program and that if players wanted to play both sports they would need to understand the practice/game times may overlap. The director suggested establishing a Flag Football Board or Committee under the Parks and Recreation Commission to help coordinate and facilitate the program for example to: organize teams, recruit volunteers, order supplies, hire officials, etc. The director was concerned if there would be available staff time to complete the program tasks and thought the Football Committee would be able to help with the facilitation of the program. P. Bolster said the program would fill a need for exercise, build self esteem and provide a physical outlet for

adolescent youth that they need. Mr. Bolster said the program is a good alternative to soccer and fills in the important gaps for kids in school who are not playing soccer, basketball or baseball. The Commission discussed the age groups that the program would be offered to which included: 3rd, 4th and 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 6th, 7th, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The program would be co-ed teams of ten with six vs. six. Mrs. Shelton stated that the football program would need to define what skills they would like to teach at each level. P. Bolster suggested contacting Barnstead, Gilmanton and New Durham and seeing if they would like to start a similar program and play with other towns. P. Bolster mentioned performing background checks on the coaches and discussed the differences between a national check and a state check. L. Shelton expressed an interest in submitting an application for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

#### ***Appointment with Nancy Mitchell to discuss a Dog Park.***

Ms. Mitchell met with the Commission and expressed an interest in establishing a Dog Park in Alton. Ms. Mitchell noted the many benefits of having a Dog Park and noted some areas that would be good locations. Ms. Mitchell also mentioned she has information on how Dog Parks are run. Concerns were brought up regarding the park being too close to the road and dogs jumping the fence, also the dog waste and policing its removal. G. Theodora was concerned about adding additional responsibilities onto the Parks and Recreation Department. Some locations discussed included: Liberty Tree Park; Jones Field by Water Department well; Lakeside Variety; Area adjacent to proposed bike path- parallel to Rte. 28. Ms. Mitchell said a committee or group, Friends of the Dog Park, could be established for installing the fence and overseeing the park to include clean up with the Parks and Recreation Department collecting the trash like they do for the other park facilities. P. Bolster advised Ms. Mitchell to form a group and have them bring their ideas to the Parks and Recreation Commission then the Board of Selectmen. G. Theodora said that the group would also need to make provisions for what happens to the facility if people are no longer using it, he suggested that if the Dog Park Committee were to dissolve then the facility should also dissolve.

#### ***Old Business***

Halloween Happenings- The PTSA and Parks and Recreation Department will be co-sponsoring an event at the Alton Central School on Friday, October 31, 2008 from 4:00pm-5:00pm. The event will include games and a costume parade and contest with judges from the Fire and Police Departments. Trick or Treat is scheduled for the same night from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Parks and Recreation will be handing out something to be determined from the Department for the children.

Youth Basketball Update- The Director reported that she met with Kristi Hikel, ACS Athletic Director, and said there hasn't been a decision as to what the school is planning to do with intramurals and if they will be including the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th grades. Mrs. Hikel had offered to conduct a survey to be presented during the school open house looking for feedback from parents as to what programs/grades they would like to see in the basketball program. The challenge is finding enough gym time for the Parks and Recreation and the school teams. Mrs. Hikel advised that she would not be able to offer the Parks and Recreation program more gym time than was offered last year. The Director will report back for the next meeting with more information for the Commission to review.

Open Gym- The topic was tabled for next meeting.

Russian Bench- P. Bolster informed the Commission about the history and status of the Russian Bench and was asking for a recommendation from the Commission as to the bench's location. P. Bolster said the Library Trustees were going to make the decision if the bench was going to be located at the Library. W. Lionetta said that the Commission could pick the location or else someone else could pick the location. G. Theodora stated that he would like Cydney Johnson to be present when a vote is made because she may have input the Commission would like to consider. No decision was made.

### *Adjournment*

G. Theodora made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm; motion was seconded by W. Lionetta and passed. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 23 at 6:30pm at AVAS.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kellie Troendle, Certified Park and Recreation Professional  
Parks and Recreation Director*