

**Recreation Commission Regular Meeting**  
**James Harmon Community Center - 44 Main Street**  
**Thursday, June 8, 2017 - 8:00pm**

**In attendance:**

Gene Calamari, John Dailey, David Downs, Samantha Merton, Angela Reeve,  
Matt Nordt (Superintendent)

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Public Comment**

Written note submitted by Val Harmon, Pool Director: "For the last few days I have watched Rich Strobel, our Parks Foreman, and his crew of workers investigate the problem with our filter system, go into the small tank which holds the sand and gravel, find the problem and fix it by taking apart the pipe and laterals. Due to Rich's knowledge of our filter system, his investigative efforts and everyone's untiring efforts to correct the problem, we were able to reopen our main pool within a few days at a savings of thousands of dollars. This evening I would like to publicly acknowledge their ongoing efforts to maintain Chemka Pool by going beyond that which is asked for. Your dedication and hard work deserves a public thank you, thank you, thank you and a round of applause."

**3. Old Business**

Minutes from May Recreation Commission monthly meeting - approved

Upcoming / New Programs:

- June Jumpstart - aquatic after school program that makes use of the Chemka Pool, week of June 5th and June 12th. Children are walked from Hillside to the pool for daily swim & water safety lessons, and supervised play.
- Family Movie Night @ Zinsser Park - July 14th (during Family Weekend). Full list of activities for Family Weekend forthcoming.

**4. New Business**

Summer Programs / Summer Camps - Update

- Revenues for summer camps are up \$7K from this point last season
- Rec staff is discussing new summer basketball program that would role model winter Rec Basketball. Angela Reeve suggested that Rec staff include Youth Advocates in discussions.

Chemka Pool - Update.

Filter system to the main pool had an issue that Rich Strobel, Parks Foreman, was able to identify and rectify. Rich worked with the manufacturer of the filtration system to

locate the needed parts and was able to perform the repairs using Village labor/staff. Matt Nordt estimates that this course of action saved the Village upwards of \$20K for filtration system repairs that would have otherwise needed to be contracted out to a pool service company.

Spray Pool - the process of an outside lab collecting weekly water samples from the Spray Pool and sending those samples on to the Westchester County Health Dept lab in Valhalla is underway and will continue throughout the summer. This course of action was offered as a 1-year grace period by County Health to the Village to address the overflow limitation issue in the Spray Pool.

Pool membership sales are up \$3k from this point last season.

#### Zinsser Park Work -

Matt has asked the contractors working on Quarry Park Trail to repair the parking lot and erosion adjacent the west side of the Zinsser Park driveway / parking lot. The erosion is a result of snow dumping at this site. Having an outside contractor tend to these necessary repairs will free up our Parks Foreman and crew to tend to the multitude of pressing parks maintenance projects underway in the Village (pool complex, tennis courts retaining wall, etc). Commission members expressed support of this course of action. The Zinsser Park parking lot will be closed all day on 6/9th for the repairs. Village email "blast" went out to notify commuters and users of the park.

Pads are down for the new bleachers at Zinsser Park.

New shade overhangs have been installed in the playground area.

Gardening Program begins this Saturday 6/10th - 9 youth enrolled.

#### Hillside Park Tennis Courts -

inclement weather delayed the painted striping of the courts. The handicap drive/access gate are complete. Rich Strobel and crew have installed pavers and have created new steps to the main court entrance.

#### Quarry Park and Trail projects -

Trail is completed. Shooting for a September ribbon cutting. Trail was grant funded through New York State.

Quarry Park project - Matt reported that the Village Manager's Report during the 6/6th Board of Trustees meeting included an update on the design of Quarry Park and an estimate of \$2.1M for the work to that site. There was discussion of funding and how the process moves forward at that BoT meeting.

John Dailey reiterated the long standing concern about the limited parking to access Quarry Park. David Downs asked if we as a Commission should express a concern to the BoT's about the expense of the Quarry Park project in light of the multitude of other

parks and recreation responsibilities. Quarry Park will continue to be an area of discussion.

#### Uniontown Park - update

Gene Calamari shared key points from the meeting that occurred earlier this evening between Gisolfi Landscape Architects (GLA), Village Manager, and Recreation staff and Commission members. GLA presented several possible designs for that site, but the one selected achieved 3 key objectives: 32 parking spots (GLA's design identified 33 spots with entrance/egress, and a flow of traffic that would allow a "turn around"); field/fencing of regulation play size; planned spot for playground (it was initially thought that playground would only fit in the back of the park, but GLA managed to work in a 3000' designated spot for the playground in the front of the park). GLA will hold another meeting for Village Manager and Rec Dept/Commission on July 13th.

#### Hillside Woods - joint resolution with Conservation Commission.

David Downs (Rec Commission liaison for Conservation Commission as it pertains to Hillside Woods) shared a proposed "Resolution in Support of Funding for Hillside Woods Deer Exclosure" (included below for ease of reference) with the Recreation Commission. He shared that the Conservation Commission will submit this to the Board of Trustees and suggested that it makes sense for the Parks & Recreation Commission to back this as a joint submission. Hillside Woods is a Village park. Gene Calamari did express concern that submitting any requests for efforts that require Village funding might risk our ability to finish projects currently underway (ie... Uniontown Park). David put forth a motion to accept the resolution, and it was agreed by Downs, Dailey, Calamari, Merton and Reeve to accept the motion. David will communicate this to the Conservation Commission.

#### Parks & Recreation Commission - vacancy.

Samantha Merton announced earlier this year that she will be stepping down from the Recreation Commission since her family will be relocating overseas this August. Therefore, Samantha's seat (term expires April 2019) will be vacant from this point forward.

As Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Recreation Commission Chair) was unable to attend this evening's meeting, tonight's discussion was limited to Angela Reeve offering to convey to Joanne that two residents thus far had expressed an interest in the opening... AnnMarie Ross (Maple Ave) and Bill Crosby (Branford Ave). It was discussed that Joanne would need to check in with the BoT's / Village Manager as these volunteer seats are Board appointed positions.

#### **5. Adjournment.** - Meeting adjourned @ 9:50pm.

Next Meeting - July 13, 2017 @ 8pm, JHCC

June minutes prepared by A. Reeve and adopted on: July 13, 2017

Included with June 8th Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes for ease of reference for this evening's discussion is this proposed joint resolution presented by David Downs.....

#### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR HILLSIDE WOODS DEER EXCLOSURE

WHEREAS, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson owns and maintains a roughly 100-acre property in the northeast corner of the Village known as Hillside Woods; and

WHEREAS, numerous forestry experts have over the course of two recent community-wide public hearings reported the current state of the property as in severe decline and indeed headed for collapse due to a combination of damage by deer over-population, invasive plant species and human activity; and

WHEREAS, the consensus of those same experts is that the impact of deer population is by far the single most important factor destabilizing Hillside Woods and that no attempt at regeneration of the forest through planting and seeding will succeed until the deer population in the Village is dramatically reduced through culling or the deer are removed from and prevented from returning to Hillside Woods; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of both the Conservation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to preserve the green spaces of our community in the best possible condition for current and future generations of residents; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission seek emergency funding from the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village in the current 2017-2018 fiscal year for the construction of a deer exclosure that will preserve as much of the Hillside Woods as possible and permit regeneration efforts by local volunteer groups with the guidance of forestry experts.