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Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 12:18 PM
To: Rec Committee
Cc: Town of Stuyvesant
Subject: Rec Committee Meeting 3-07-09 Draft Minutes

Stuyvesant Recreation Committee Meeting

Minutes for March 7th 2009 (draft, to be approved at April Meeting)

Present: Councilwoman Roz Gumaer, Chair, Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Deputy Supervisor Ron Knott, Councilman Ed Scott, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli, Stuyvesant#1 Fire Chief Steve Montie, Michelle Richardson, Lee Jamison, Frank Pino, Edson Folmsbee, Bill Schneider, Kaz Jakiela

Hunting Policy:

Due to time considerations and other competing Saturday morning Town meetings; the usual order of business was suspended to discuss the recommendations for a Hunting Policy at the Ken Hummel Park on Sharptown Road.

A draft policy had been distributed earlier. Hunters Frank Pino and Edson Folmsbee expressed concerns that too many people, some from out-of-state, had been hunting, camping and driving vehicles in the Park during last Fall's Rifle Season. Ed Scott felt it was not a problem and that hunter's etiquette prevailed at all times he was hunting, which he said was almost daily. Ed did mention that homeowners in the adjacent Cedar Drive development had asked him to keep an eye on things as there are not boundary signs up yet. Discussion also focused on the pros and cons of the Town issuing permits, permit lotteries, limits on numbers of hunters per day, length of season, type of seasons to permit, types of tree stands, signage (Kaz offered to obtain and distribute regulations on signs), enforcement and communication to the public about the Hunting Policy.

Supervisor Bertram expressed her preference for no regulations. Others brought up that when the Asbornsen's owned the land, hunter's etiquette required asking the owner's permission to hunt. Now the Town owns the land and obtaining a permit from the Town is a continuation of this permission process. Ron expressed concerns about volunteer "enforcement" of policies whereby volunteers might have to confront hunters with guns and wondered about issuing badges. Lee clarified that the draft policy mentioning "Volunteers In Parks" is recommended and used by the Columbia Land Conservancy. It speaks of volunteers who would check cars for permits and call Ranger Chris DiCintio or Deputy Bray to handle any actual enforcement issues. Roz said her husband has had to remove misbehaving hunters from their farm property on occasion, so we also should be prepared for those situations though we hope it won't happen. Some hunters have already offered to volunteer.

After discussion, a plan, as follows, was recommended by consensus to be presented to the Town Council:

Hunting at the Ken Hummel Park on Sharptown Road will be by permit only to Stuyvesant Town Residents. Permits will be issued at Stuyvesant Town Hall to any resident with a hunting permit prior to October 1st 2009. Permits will include a card to be carried by the hunter and placed in the window of their vehicle. There will be written rules made available to each hunter and posted at the Park. No limit to the number of hunters will be set; hunter's etiquette will be relied upon to control the number of hunters at the Park.

There will be a sign stating that the Park is closed to the public during rifle season.

There are to be no permanent tree stands and all tree strand are to be removed at the end of the rifle season.

Motorized vehicles are to be limited to the driveway and parking lot.

The Committee will review and re-evaluate this plan after the 2009 Rifle Season.

In other Park business, Steve Montie said the Town Highway crew (thanks!) cleared debris from the small pond area near the parking lot and suggested it might be nice to improve it for winter skating or other purposes. It was also requested that the drive be plowed in the winter.

Regular Meeting resumed:

Roz moved, Lee seconded that the February minutes be approved as corrected. Passed.

Sean presented a report on Trail Build and Shoreline Cleanup dates and activities.

KHM Park Trail Build: Willie Janeway plans to do brush clearing and chainsaw work over Memorial Day weekend and would like 2-3 people to help. Regular Trail Builds will be 9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays in June 13th and 27th 2009. Raindates would be the following Sundays.

Shoreline Clean up: Saturdays 10 am to noon

April 24 2009 at Nutten Hook

May 1 2009 at Stuyvesant Landing

May 9 2009 at Swyer Preserve (Mill Creek and 9J) and the Sand Bar Park in Stuyvesant Falls. As usual, a Volunteer Thank you Cook-out will follow at noon at the Sand Bar Park .

Quadricentennial: The Quad Committee asks the the Rec Committee participate with events. We discussed a shore event timed with the Regatta, a passage of the tall ships and other boats possibly on Friday, June 5th. This is also a Farmer's Market Night. Lee thought Dutch folks working at Camphill might be interested in coming over. One lady offered to sing the Dutch National Anthem for us. Ron discussed the Regatta Schedule and mentioned the NYS Greenway website resource.

Summer Rec Program: Lee and Sean will attend the Kinderhook Rec Commission Meeting on Monday 3-16-09 for info and report back. We will mail applications at the next Rec meeting.

Kinderhook Trails: Michelle announced good news that Kinderhook has been offered option of stimulus money to rebuild a bridge over the creek as part of the trail.

Ken Hummel Memorial Park Kiosk and Signage

Discussed park signage and wording to propose to Town Board.

Signs to direct drivers from road to park lot, suggestion was two arrows. One pointing down the hill, and one pointing left to the park drive.

Location of kiosk: back end of parking lot.

Kiosk wording:

Welcome to khmp

Enjoy these things....[list]

Hunting by permit only, contact...

Directions to trails

No motorized vehicles

Send suggestions on kiosk and wording to Roz.

Discussed an interim sign/info box, the size of one or two 8x11 sheets of paper. We could insert basic information and rules until kiosk is installed. Kaz said he can work on a temporary box. We may be able to reuse the box elsewhere later, like at the trailhead or entrance to the woods.

Edson volunteered to make the blanks for the signs at the County Garage.

Jim Romanchuk has offered to build a kiosk.

Next Meeting Saturday April 4, 2009 at 9 am at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Jamison