

Meeting #129

A meeting of the Young Park Commission was held Tuesday January 30, 2018 at the offices of the Pine Orchard Association.

Present:

Commissioners-
Ken Graham, Chairman
Paul Blackstone
Geoff Hotz
Rich Rosen, Secretary

And Dale Welsh- Park Warden

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM.

The minutes from the May 16, 2017 and the September 26, 2017 meetings were approved.

Warden Report:

Park warden Dale Welsh's report was read, a copy of which is attached. The trails are clear. Ken installed a new box to hold Young Park maps. Conversely, Ken was successful in asking the Greenway Trail personnel to stop packaging their maps at the park. Many folks have enjoyed cross-country skiing and hockey at Young Park. The signs informing the public that there is no smoking in the park keep getting vandalized. Dale replaces them each time. The Girl Scouts proposed bat house is now set to be installed spring of 2018 on the north side of the Upper Meadow. The annual tri-state bike trek to raise money for ALS research will take place again this summer. The Branford Recreation Department held its annual dog Frisbee contest on May 5, 2018. 2018 star gazing will take place on 3/17, 4/21, 5/5, 6/9, 10/6, and 11/10.

Financial Report:

Future costs include approximately \$1300 for maintenance to the park including shrub and bush work and possibly the arborist as well as foundations clean-up work. The financial report continues to show that Young Park is conservative financially with a balanced budget.

Mirror Lake:

The application for the 2018 application has been handled by Ken. Funds to apply the chemicals will need to come from the Pine Orchard Association and/or nearby homeowners. Ken also created and shared a summary overview as to how to secure the permit each year. Thank you, Ken.

Old Business:

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Ken again spoke of cleaning up the foundations on the park property. Emphasis will at first focus on the small foundation in the Upper Meadow then the two foundations nearby the pond. A pathway to and from the Upper Meadow foundation is desirable.

Ken met with First Selectman Cosgrove on January 31, 2018 regarding the stonewall on the park border with the road. Mr. Cosgrove said the town would fix it by the end of June, 2018.

There is a large tree in the pond. Geoff tried to have it removed by the town without luck so far. A debate had occurred regarding lighting the main parking lot. Solar lighting with a key switch would cost approximately \$3500. An electric company option only offered a light that had an off or off switch. Finally, the committee decided that it was better to not have a light at all due to the park closing at dusk.

New Business:

Geoff inquired about weed wacking and gravel grading the far side of the pond; the path is wet with lots of roots and is difficult to traverse. Ken mentioned DPW delivered wood chips in the past compact themselves and work for awhile. Paul noted that they tend to last 2-4 years. More discussion at the next meeting.

Ken created a

Ken reported a plan to plant multiple native trees in the park. Discussion included an Eastern Sycamore near the bridge where an oak used to stand. This species is enormous, growing to 90' with a canopy of up to 70', needs to be close to water. Paul donated three shad bushes (10-15' x 6' wide). The plan is to plant them on the right side of the park entrance. In addition, a Sugar Maple can go where the DPW took down a Silver Maple. A third White Pine will join two others in the Upper Meadow while a Common Juniper might need to replace a suffering one in that same location. Ken is hopeful that some of these trees won't incur any purchase costs. In terms of planting same, a combination of help from DPW as well as doing some of the work privately is a possible solution. Geoff made a motion to accept this tree planting plan, Ken seconded and all were in favor. Thank you, Ken for all of your efforts in this and so many other endeavors that make Young Park a special place.

Future Meetings:

May 15 and September 18, 2018 both Tuesdays at the Pine Orchard Association offices at 180 Pine Orchard Road, Branford, CT 06405 with each meeting commencing at 7:30 PM.

Geoff made a motion to adjourn and Ken seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM.

Rich Rosen, Secretary

January 30, 2018

THE TRAILS ARE ALL CLEAR AND FREE OF DEBRIS.

KEN INSTALLED A NEW MAILBOX FOR THE MAPS FOR US. KEN ALSO SPOKE TO SOMEONE FROM THE GREENWAY TRAIL AND THEY HAVE STOPPED PUTTING THEIR MAPS IN OUR MAPBOX.

DURING THE WINTER PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ENJOYING HOCKEY AND CROSS COUNTRY SKIING AT THE PARK.

IF ANYONE COMPLAINS ABOUT THE PARKING LOT NOT BEING PLOWED JUST EXPLAIN TO THEM THAT IT WILL GET PLOWED, HOWEVER THE DPW NEEDS TO FOCUS ON THE MAIN ROADS AND CENTER OF TOWN FIRST.

I HAVE POSTED SIGNS ABOUT THE NEW ORDINANCE OF NO SMOKING IN PUBLIC PARKS. SOMEONE KEEPS TAKING THEM DOWN. I WILL CONTINUE TO REPLACE THEM.

WE STILL HAVE SOMEONE STEALING OUR RECYCLING CONTAINERS, BUT THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ONGOING THING.

THE BAT HOUSE THAT WE APPROVED FOR THE GIRL SCOUTS LAST YEAR SHOULD BE GOING UP THIS SPRING. I HAVE SPOKEN WITH THE GIRLS SCOUTS AND THEY SAID THEY WILL INSTALL IT ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE UPPER MEADOW LIKE WE HAD DISCUSSED WITH THEM.

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