

Town of Newburgh
Parks Board
Minutes July 7, 2016

Members Present:

Mary Ann Wilsbacher, Matt Timmel, Kevin Reine, Ron Keller, Wanda Kavanaugh

Administrative Present:

Christy Powell, Town Manager; Attorney Raymond Dudlo, Legal; Stacie Krieger, Council Liaison

Members Absent:

None

Citizens Present:

Charles Burggrabe
Amanda Burkins
Diana Powell
Syliva Will
Ernest Stone

Minutes:

Wanda Kavanaugh made a motion to approve the minutes from May 5 & June 2, 2016.

Kevin Reine seconded the motion.

Minutes were approved.

Petitions and Comments from Citizens Present:

Charles Burggrabe from 408 Park Drive

Mr. Burggrabe stated that Park Drive is a narrow dead end drive with one lane that has a fence that separates Park Drive from the park. Recently the residents of Park Drive have noticed a piece of the fencing missing and cars were driving through the hole and parking in the public picnic area and where children play. Safety is main the reason why the fence was put up. Mr. Burggrabe questioned why the fence was cut and why people were allowed to park in the public picnic area. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that the fence was cut by the town maintenance because that section of fence was broken. Mr. Burggrabe asked who and when that section of fence would be repaired.

Mr. Burggrabe also stated that the park itself is in need of signs. He believes there needs to be a sign when you first enter showing where to turn for pool parking because once they miss the parking lot, they have to go all the way down Park Drive. There also needs to be a sign for shelter parking that directs the vehicles to between the basketball and tennis courts, and the road is already there that would allow them to park where the old batting cages once were. Mr. Burggrabe also stated there needs to be a stop sign at the pool parking lot exit, this way people would have to stop before turning onto Park Drive, since most just turn without looking.

Mr. Burggrabe stated as far as the missing fence goes, he understands that there are broken pieces but the center post in the section he is talking about, has been removed, which allows for a car to drive right through that section. Mrs. Wilsbacher explained that they have been thinking about adding a parking pad at that section and had Mrs. Kavanaugh explain the need due to safety issues with vehicles driving through the playground area. Mr. Burggrabe stated that he agrees there needs to be shelter parking but it needs to be where the old batting cages use to be.

Mrs. Powell explained to the residents of Park Drive that if anyone is blocking the road or driving through the playgrounds they should call the police to let them know and to also call Town Hall and let them know as well.

Amanda Burkins at 406 Park Drive

Mrs. Burkins said that what she believes got everyone upset was a recent party that was at the shelter that had at least 50 vehicles that came down Park Drive and drove through the missing fence and parked in the green area but some of the vehicles had their bumpers touching the Fortress of Fun. Mrs. Burkins said that communication between the town and the residents of Park Drive would be huge. Mrs. Burkins said that putting the entrance/exit of a parking area at the end of Park Drive would cause issues on Park Drive itself and having the parking go where the old batting cages are would be a much better option for traffic flow. Mrs. Burkins also said that lining the parking path with a split rail fence would also help with safety issues. Mrs. Burkins also stated that the split rail fence was actually put in by the citizens and not the Park Board. Mrs. Burkins concern was also communication between the residents of Park Drive and the Park Board.

Mrs. Wilsbacher explained that the Park Minutes are available online and also let Mrs. Burkins and the other residents of Park Drive that were at the meeting know that starting July 23rd, Historic Newburgh, Inc. will be having their movie nights once a month with the first movie night also having an open swim before the movie starts.

Mrs. Burkins also stated that another issue with the park is crime. She stated they have called the police on multiple occasions for kids setting fires, people in the park arguing, cars being broken into and just recently the drug deal that went bad and someone was beat up in the park. Mrs. Wilsbacher acknowledged the crime in the area but did say that the latter incident, the suspect was caught. Mrs. Wilsbacher also let Mrs. Burkins and the rest of the Park Drive residents know that the Town and the Parks Board appreciates all that they do. That without them the Town would not have that extra set of eyes on the park.

Mrs. Burkins stated that she will start checking the Park Board minutes to see what is being discussed about Lou Dennis Park but also requested that if any changes are going to be made to the park or discussions are going to be had about the park that the residents of Park Drive are notified by letter. Christy Powell stated that she will commit to notify every house on Park Drive when there is a change at the park.

Mrs. Kavanaugh asked Mrs. Burkins that if the Park Board could keep people going 20mph, and "No Parking" signs were put on the road so no one could park on the road, would she object to a driveway and parking lot off of Park Drive. Mrs. Burkins said she would object because Park Drive is one car width wide and already the six (6) houses that are back there have to wait for each other to pass to get to and from their houses. Mrs. Burkins stated that if there was any event, the road could not handle that kind of traffic.

A discussion was held between board members and Mrs. Burkins on where the purposed driveway and parking lot would be. The issues that would arise from both proposed plans (i.e. cost of gravel, lighting, fencing, and water issues) were all discussed. Mrs. Powell stated that this whole discussion is still in the very beginning phase.

Ron Keller said to Mrs. Burkins that the next time he is out walking around he will contact her and she could walk around with him to point out any issues.

Diana Powell at 412 Park Drive

Diana Powell stated that she has lived at 412 Park Drive since 1975, her husband's mother donated the land to create, and that is why they have the twelve (12) foot easement that goes to Jefferson. Mrs. Diana Powell stated that her property line is at least a foot off of where her fence is. Mrs. Diana Powell stated that it is important for the Parks Board to be aware of property lines and legalities, referencing in years past when her tree was cut down and her roses sprayed. Raymond Dudlo stated that the Parks Board will be working with engineers that will take into account the property lines.

Mrs. Diana Powell referenced a letter that she sent via email and asked if the board had read the letter; since the letter was read by all Park Board members, the letter was not read out loud. Mrs. Diana Powell stated that for

record she does not want a driveway or a parking lot in her front yard and that the one lane road is not made for the traffic that the parking lot would cause. Mrs. Diana Powell said in years past, when May Mason was the Town Manager, she would always let the residents of Park Drive know when an event was coming up by putting a note in their mailboxes. Mrs. Diana Powell said that the residents of Park Drive try to be good neighbors to the Park and they just ask for that in return.

Syliva Will at 403 Park Drive

Mrs. Will stated that she has lived at 403 Park Drive since 1986 and loves the park. Mrs. Will stated that whoever removed the trees and cleaned up the park did a beautiful job, but when she saw all the cars parked on the grass it upset her. Mrs. Will is worried about the grass being ruined and with all the water issues over in that area, she is worried about further damage the cars would create.

Ernest Stone at 405 Park Drive

Mr. Stone stated that when families are at the shelter, the grassy area becomes their play area. Mr. Stone also stated that if the park hours could be enforced, maintenance would go down. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that they are trying to improve all their parks, in hopes that if they look like they are being taken care of; people would not want to vandalize them.

Amanda Burkins at 406 Park Drive

Mrs. Burkins stated that when she was on the Parks Board they had the lights on the basketball court turned off at dark. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated they are on a timer, but Mrs. Burkins stated they turn off at 11:00pm. If the sign says the park is closed at dusk, the lights should be off.

Mr. Reine asked Mrs. Burkins if people are at the park because the lights are on. Mrs. Burkins stated that when the basketball lights are on, people are using the court. Mrs. Burkins said she does not know what the solution is because sometimes it is just kids playing basketball but other times it is a car load of people, with some on the courts and some going off into the non-lit park areas. Mrs. Burkins stated that she does like that the shelter lights stay on and that has seemed to stop some vandalism.

Mr. Keller and Mr. Stone discussed the drainage issue at the park and Mr. Keller stated he would contact Mr. Stone to meet up at the park to look at the issues. Christy Powell stated she would bring the issues to the Storm Water Committee.

New Business:

Legal Name & Address for Parks Board for Gift as a Beneficiary of an Account after a Person Dies

Mrs. Wilsbacher stated a woman called and stated that she is creating an account and would like the Parks Board to be the beneficiary of that account when she passes away. The woman needs the legal name and address of the Parks Board.

Stacie Krieger explained that most likely a POD (payable on death) or a TOD (time of death) account would be created with the Town of Newburgh Parks Board as the beneficiary. When the person passes away, a representative from the Parks Board would need to show the bank a copy of the death certificate and the funds would be released immediately.

Christy Powell stated that the legal name for the Park Board is: Town of Newburgh, Board of Parks
The legal address is 23 West Jennings, Newburgh, IN 47630 and the phone number of 812-853-1720

Thank You Notes for Emerald Ash Borer Donations

Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that enough money has been collected for the first round of EAB treatment. In two (2) years another round of treatment will need to be done. Mrs. Wilsbacher asked the board to sign thank you cards for the people that donated and included a tax statement showing the donation is tax deductible.

Emerald Ash Borer Fundraising Ideas

Mrs. Wilsbacher asked the board if they had any ideas on how to raise money for the next round of treatments. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that she thought of putting something up at Lou Dennis Park for people to drop money in to donate. Mrs. Powell suggested putting some information out at the park where people could donate. Another suggestion was to put a lock box out at the pool front desk that people could drop money in. Mrs. Wilsbacher suggested trying to get the media involved to bring awareness.

Shelter Rental Agreement

Mrs. Wilsbacher stated the shelter rental agreement has been created. Mrs. Kavanaugh suggested that the rules need to be posted at the shelter as well.

Mrs. Kavanaugh made a motion to accept the Shelter Rental Agreement
Mrs. Wilsbacher seconded the motion
Discussion was had about the use of speakers
Motion was approved

Outdoor Ping Pong Table Donation from Escalade Sports

Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that Escalade Sports has Outdoor Ping Pong Tables that they are willing to donate to the park. Escalade Sports would bring the tables and set them up but it would be the parks responsibility to level the ground and or create a base. If someone does not bring their own paddles and balls they could rent them from concessions, the pool or even Town Hall. Once the ping pong tables are in place, there have been talks of starting tournaments. Mrs. Powell stated that we would need pictures and dimensions and she would talk to Gerald to see where we could place these. Mrs. Wilsbacher will gather the information on the outdoor ping pong tables.

REPORTS:

Town Council Liaison:

Stacie Krieger stated there is no report from the last Town Council meeting.

Pool Report:

Christy Powell stated that there have been some learning curves and we are making notes for next year. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that Dave Harris, Pool Ambassador, will not be coming back to the pool.

Mrs. Powell stated that Tavi, Gerald and she have been to the pool to try to correct the issues this year but next year there needs to be a stronger manager at the pool to run the day to day operation. Mrs. Wilsbacher asked Mr. Dudlo if the Pool Manager needs to have life guard certification and WSI or if the manager hired could be someone to just oversee the running and scheduling of the pool. Mr. Dudlo stated that he would research if it is a legal requirement but Mrs. Powell & Mrs. Kavanaugh both agree that they think it is important for the manager to be certified.

Mr. Dudlo asked if there is any way to start the hiring process earlier next year, but Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that we had the staff hired a whole month before the pool opened.

Mr. Reine asked how the concession stand is going. Mrs. Kavanaugh stated that Gerald told her that people are bringing in their own lunches and snacks and not buying from concession.

Mrs. Powell stated that the pool got a lighting detector.

Fundraising Committee:

Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that "Parks Pals" is not really up and running yet. Most fundraising ideas have been done or are being done. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that she will continue to look into fundraising ideas.

Rivertown Trail:

Committee Meeting Monday, July 11th

Rivertown Trail 5K:

No Report

PARK AREA REPORTS

Lou Dennis:

Ron Keller stated that the mulch is still in place under the swings but it is still flooding. Mr. Keller wondered if a small catch basin with a pump could be installed. Mr. Keller also listed areas throughout the park that have standing water after every rain. Mrs. Kavanaugh suggested filling in the areas with dirt and then mulch but Mrs. Powell stated that there seems to be a bigger issue going on and she is going to get with David Hynes to see if it is a storm water issue and what can be done.

Old Lock and Dam Park:

Matt Timmel said that the area is still not cleaned up and a discussion was had on who cleans the area. Mrs. Powell stated that she look into getting the area cleaned before the Newburgh Remembers event. Mr. Reine stated that when the area is not cleared we lose income on boat ramp permits.

Lockmaster Cottages:

Kevin Reine – No Report

IHOP

Wanda Kavanaugh – No Report

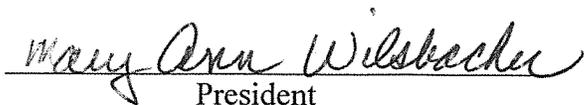
Unfinished Business:

None

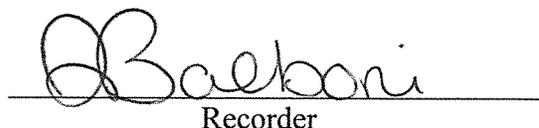
Discussion:

Mary Ann Wilsbacher made a motion to adjourn.
Kevin Reine seconded and the motion carried.

Next Meeting will be August 4, 2016 at 6:00 pm.



President



Recorder