



# Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting June 9, 2020



**Those in attendance:**

Commissioners:	Rhoda Ride	Rob Keister	John Unson
	Eileen Andrews	Steve Murphy	Greg Westbrook
Director:	Dan Hook		
Town Board Liaison:	Chris DiPonzio		
Absent:	Brom Bianchi		

The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:32 PM by Rhoda Ride. This meeting was held at the Memorial Park shelter.

The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed. No changes were noted, A motion was made by Eileen Andrews and seconded by Rob Keister, to accept the March meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

**Financial Report:**

The financial sheets were reviewed by the Commissioners. The following questions were raised:

- \* Rhoda Ride asked for a clarification of where the salary for the Senior Coordinator Assistant was listed as this position is currently furloughed. Dan Hook explained it was listed under code: A7610-100.
- \* John Unson asked for a clarification of why the dance program had monies listed for the month of April, when at that point, everything was shut down. Dan Hook explained that was carry over recording from the previous month.

A motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by John Unson to accept the financial reports for March through May. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

**Correspondence:**

Dan Hook reported they have received numerous email/calls/inquiries as to what the status of programs/rentals/etc. are. No specific messages were shared, but Dan indicated there has been a great deal of community communication.

**Evaluation of Past Programs:**

Most of the programming for the past four months has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the only program running is the adult golf league which has approximately 46 participants.

Dan Hook reported on the "virtual" Memorial Day program. He shared that overall the program went well and was well received. Consideration of some of the portions of this program will be carried over to next years program. Chris DiPonzio shared there were some technical problems with the broadcast, but overall it worked well. There have been over 1800 hits on the site to view this program.

Dan also reported the Doud Post monument was removed from the property on Buffalo Rd., (due to the sale of the property) and relocated at Memorial Park. A small garden area has been groomed around the flag pole, and the monument has been placed there.

**Programs in Progress:**

Currently, the only program running is the adult golf league and there are 46 participants.

**Old Business:**

Dan Hook reported the following updates:

- \* The staff and he have been having a great deal of fun recording videos for postings on the website.
- \* The Department bus should be fully repaired and back into service by late July.
- \* The area at the Department set aside for the pre-school has been completely renovated. Things are colorful, bright and clean. Hopefully soon, things will be open up so this area can be used.
- \* During this time of quarantine, the Department has been busy with several outreach programs, e.g. Foodlink food distribution event.
- \* There have been various park clean up projects going on.
- \* At Westgate park, the project "music rocks" has been underway. This entails finding and identifying rocks with song lyrics on them. Once they have been identified, the object is to identify the song the lyrics are from. Several people participated and small prizes were awarded.
- \* Staffing changes include: Kim Vogler and Dawn Stephanella have both been furloughed.
- \* Office hours for now are 9AM - 5PM, Monday through Friday. There will be someone in the office each day.
- \* John Unson questioned how the decision was made related to the cancelling of the camps program? Dan Hook explained that after careful consideration and much thought, with particular notice to the NYS regulations and phased re-opening, it was decided this was the best decision for our town at this time. A brief discussion took place, and all agreed this was the right thing to do.
- \* Dan Hook mentioned if things continue to re-open as they are, consideration to start accepting park/cabin rental will start.
- \* Steve Murphy asked if any monies were spent on the Easter Egg Hunt that was cancelled? Dan explained that right before orders were put in for gifts, the state of NY went on "pause" so luckily, nothing was processed or ordered.
- \* Rhoda Ride asked who will be cleaning the various park shelters now that new NYS regulations are in place? Dan Hook explained that a cleaning service will be doing it. A brief discussion about cleaning options, cleaners used, etc., occurred.

- \* Dan Hoock asked for input related to whether or not we should hold the Summer Celebration. The following are highlights of that discussion:
  - a. Three suggestions for possible consideration:
    1. Modify the current scheduled program to have fewer offerings
    2. Re-schedule this event to sometime in the fall
    3. Cancel the entire program

Extensive discussion took place on the pros/cons of each of these options. Many opinions were shared. Rhoda Ride ask for s show of hands related to each option. The results showed support of either the program being modified to be less busy, or cancel outright. Rescheduling to a later date in the fall isn't going to be considered. After extensive discussion was done, this final decision on this question will be tabled to the July meeting.
- \* Dan Hoock shared he was considering not mailing the fall brochure out to the community, as we're not sure yet whether or not programming can occur. By not mailing the brochure to the community, there will be a savings of approximately \$7000. The printed brochure would be made available in several places throughout the community, plus it will also be on-line. A brief discussion took place on the pros/cons of this decision.
- \* Dan Hoock shared that since the camp program has been cancelled, camp kits have have been put together and advertised for sale. These themed kits (art and nature) include activities for children to enjoy.
- \* A question was raised pertaining to senior programming? A brief discussion followed with the suggestion that maybe restructuring of the current programs might be considered. This restructuring would be more in alignment with the "new normal" we will be living. Continued discussion took place on the topics listed above, with many ideas shared as possible options to consider.

**New Business:**

Dan Hoock shared the information with the Commission about a parcel of land that has been offered as a donation to the town. This is the parcel of land where the Dolomite gravel quarry is, and includes parcels of properties that run along Howard, Buffalo and Hinchey roads. Dan Hoock has walked this property (there are approximately 2-1/2 miles of trails in various conditions) and feels this would be a good acquisition for the town. Discussion took place as to how this property could be used/developed (mountain bike paths, nature hikes, etc.) and we will wait to hear when the Town Board makes a decision concerning it. Rhoda Ride shared a financial grant has been awarded to Hinchey House to renovate the barn on the property. Hinchey House backs up to the property previously mentioned from Dolomite.

Rob Keister shared he recently visited the Bike Zone store and spoke to the proprietor about participating in a Bike Clinic sponsored by the Department. This had been a consideration to do, prior to the pandemic restrictions. A brief discussion followed on the option, and Dan thanked Rob for doing the research. If this event is scheduled, Bike Zone will be contacted to participate in it.

Greg Westbrook shared the following information with the Commission:

- \* Holy Ghost church property/buildings has been purchased by the owner of Imagination Child Care. The current renters utilizing buildings on the church campus will continue to stay, and portions of the existing building will be converted to classrooms where a Pre-K program will be offered starting in September.
- \* St. Helen's church property/buildings has been purchased and will be utilized as a Rochester Area Charter School in September.

Rhoda Ride asked Chris DiPonzio if a candidate has been selected yet to replace Art Plewa, who is retiring? Chris said several candidates were being interviewed and hopefully by the end of June, a replacement will be hired. Jim Donovan is also retiring, and Chris indicated that this job might be outsourced to Paychex.

John Unson inquired if there is movement in the community for the Greenlight High Speed Internet service yet? Chris DiPonzio said he didn't know, because it was dependent on how many community members subscribed to the service before it was installed.

**Good of the Order:**

- Greg Westbrook: Hoped everyone had a nice summer
- Steve Murphy: Hoped everyone continued to stay healthy and safe
- John Unson: Nothing at this time
- Eileen Andrews: Hoped everyone stayed well and healthy
- Valerie Young: It was nice to see everyone again, please continue to stay healthy
- Rhoda Ride: We will be having a Commission meeting on Tuesday, July 7. The meeting place will be decided closer to the meeting date
- Rob Keister: Hoped everyone stayed healthy and safe
- Chris DiPonzio: Glad to see everyone one, but sad that his family just had to have their 15 year old dog put down
- Dan Hoock: It was good to see everyone, and he was going on vacation next week

A motion was made by Rob Keister and seconded by Eileen Andrews the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7 at 6:30 PM. The meeting place will decided upon closer to the date of the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Valerie Young - Secretary