

PARKS COMMISSION AGENDA

**October 4, 2016, 5:30 PM
Berlin Town Hall Conference Room**

1. Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2016
2. Events:
 - a) Fall Just Walk –Saturday, November 12, 9-11 AM
 - b) 2017 Movie Series
3. Presentation:
 - a) Laura Allen, Town Administrator – International Fellows trip to the Philippines
4. Updates on Ongoing Projects:
 - a) Tennis Courts
 - b) Henry Park Permanent Restrooms
5. Berlin Youth Program Update
6. Other

MINUTES – PARKS COMMISSION
September 13, 2016

The meeting of the Parks Commission for Tuesday, September 13, 2016 (rescheduled from September 6) was called to order at 5:30 PM. Chair Mike Wiley, Loretta Briddell and Patricia Dufendach were present as well as Administrative Services Director Mary Bohlen. Berlin Youth Program Coordinator Amanda Chaffee and Town Administrator Laura Allen were also present. Commission members Sarah Hooper and Bruce Hyder were absent. Councilmember Hall also joined the meeting.

Ms. Chaffee provided an update on the Berlin Youth Program, noting that the program was finished for the year and had served 17-24 children daily. Ms. Chaffee noted that Robin Tomaselli of Baked Desserts had been a big asset to the program this year, chaperoning the trip to Jolly Rogers and providing cooking classes. Ms. Tomaselli had received an award from Worcester Youth for her efforts.

Upcoming projects include a gardening project at the Multipurpose Building. Discussion of expanding the program followed, due to the number of children on a waiting list. Ms. Chaffee noted that part of the difficulty was a lack of transportation and drivers. Following discussion, it was suggested that the program reach out to Worcester Volunteer Services and to the Town's volunteer bases. Mr. Jack Orris, a member of the audience, suggested the possibility of using school buses and Ms. Allen suggested contacting Ocean Downs and Hoopers.

Ms. Chaffee also noted that she was getting ready to go on maternity leave, but would continue to work with the SAGES.

Ms. Bohlen noted that the Fall Just Walk, Berlin! event was scheduled for November 12, 2016. Ms. Dufendach indicated that she would assist Ms. Bohlen with stenciling the route ahead of time. Ms. Bohlen noted that she had found a pamphlet which could be personalized to give out to participants, along with small raffle prizes. Representatives of the Worcester County Health Department would be at the October 4th meeting to discuss the event.

Discussion regarding the summer movies followed. All of the feedback was positive. A brief discussion of having a more adult-themed movie, such as "Rocky Horror Picture Show" followed, with no decision made. Discussion followed regarding having a sing-along movie, or encouraging costumes followed. The movie "Grease" was suggested as well as repeating "Wizard of Oz" as a sing-along. "Never Ending Story" was also suggested. The Commission also discussed food vendors and consensus was to keep the movies completely free. Ms. Allen asked that the dates for next year be added to the overall Town events calendar by January. The movies would be discussed in more detail starting in February.

Ms. Bohlen provided an update on several projects: information had been sent to USTA regarding the tennis courts; staff was actively working on the permanent restrooms in Henry Park; and a grant application had been submitted to MUCFC for trees.

Discussion regarding the PLANT and Tree City programs followed. Ms. Bohlen noted that, if awarded MUCFC funds, the Town would be required to apply for designation as a PLANT community. Ms. Allen noted that the Town would need to do some reforestation work to

mitigate the new Police Facility and the plantings in Stephen Decatur and Henry Park could be applied against those requirements.

Ms. Allen briefly discussed several projects of interest she had seen while visiting the Philippines, including a floating meeting room and a tree-canopy trail. She indicated that she would like to return on October 4th to make a more detailed presentation.

Brief discussion followed regarding Berlin Falls Park. Mike Wiley noted that the park looked very good following the recent Jeep Jam, with only a few deficiencies to be addressed. Discussion followed regarding whether this, or other events, would continue or be planned in the park. Ms. Allen indicated that the Town was moving toward hiring a Project Coordinator for Berlin Falls to help determine best, most complimentary uses for the parks. Many suggestions had been made by members of the public, and the Mayor and Council was very concerned that varying uses not conflict with each other, or with the overall ideals of the Town. She also noted that there was still ongoing environmental testing being undertaken.

Mr. Orris asked if there was a fee for Jeep Jam and Ms. Allen indicated that there was, but that an overall fee structure needed to be addressed.

Josh Davis, a reporter with Ocean City Today, asked about the status of hiring a Parks Coordinator and Ms. Allen indicated that applicants were under review.

Ms. Dufendach indicated that the Parks Commission in Berlin was moving more toward a Parks and Recreation function.

Ms. Dufendach moved to adjourn the meeting and approval was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary T. Bohlen
Administrative Services Director
Liaison to the Parks Commission