

CASCO PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

5 to 6 PM, Casco Community Center

Members present: Livvy Francis, Robert Francis, Jan McGrath,  
Pat Troy, Beth Latsey Recreation Director

Members absent: Lucille Griffin (ill), Carol Hancock (out of town),  
Bev White

AGENDA

Call to order at 5 PM

Minutes of last meeting

Selection of chair & secretary

Old business

Review of past activities by recreation director

Discussion of town owned properties and site walk spring 2013

Other

New business

Committees/Liaisons

Fall & Winter schedule

Comments & Suggestions from members

Other

Next scheduled meeting May 2014

Adjourn at 6 PM

Meeting called to order at 5:08 by Troy, chairman.

Minutes of last meeting, May 8, 2013 reviewed. R. Francis moved to accept, second by L. Francis. 4-0 to accept.

R. Francis nominated Troy for chair, seconded by McGrath. 4-0 accepted.

L. Francis nominated Troy for secretary, seconded by R. Francis. 4-0 accepted.

**Old Business**

Latsey reviewed activities since May. In 2012, work to repair erosion damage at **Pleasant Lake Beach** was done using money from a grant. Work was not completely successful and, this past spring, a volunteer crew led by Casco CEO Don Murphy, repaired problems and did more work to stop erosion. Mulching in that area will continue to be done. Trees around **Libby Park** were cut and/or trimmed, which will help alleviate problems on those courts. The fencing was repaired. All outdoor courts will be power washed this Fall. The **tennis and basketball courts** have been re-surfaced and new lines painted. **Ted Carter**, landscape architect/ Community Center plantings, demonstrated to crew how and where to do **correct trimming on plants and trees**. Crew went on to trim through the Village. *Please note how great the Casco Day Park Christmas tree looks now! Originally told that it must be cut down, trimming has given it a new life.* **Robert Fogg, Q Team**, has our thanks and appreciation. Trees and plantings were sprayed. **Up-keep on ball fields** continues and includes mowing and spraying. Infields were sprayed at the end of playing season to slow down growth of weeds next year.

All **summer programs** were well attended. Approximately 1300 kids through age 18 took part in the summer lunch program. August Pie in the Park did take in enough money to pay for the Veterans' Day Breakfast. That will be held Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 to 9:30 am and is open to Casco and

Naples vets and their spouses.

The Board of Selectmen has renewed the contract (3 years) with Rich Mains for maintenance of the beaches, ballfields, parks, and snow clearing of the winter walk-ways. His previous work is much appreciated.

Latsey noted the many **volunteers** who assisted in the programs and activities, naming Carol Poole and Pam Grant in particular, and said that Pears Ice Cream was a sponsor for the lunch program. Contrary to previous years, there were no big issues about people, trash, bad behavior at **Crescent Lake Beach** this past summer. A.L. Murphy Porta Potties was awarded the contract for Casco Beaches and for Casco Days this year. Their maintenance was very good. No issues about them.

Discussion of Town Owned Properties: Latsey reported on the public meeting held by Casco Open Space Commission in August. She pointed out that, although the Parks Advisory Committee and Recreation Committee were listed as sponsors of that meeting (on the card mailed to town residents/tax payers), neither she, nor either committee had received 1. advance invitation to sponsor, or 2. advance information about the meeting. Latsey did attend and said approximately 15 people, plus the members of Open Space Commission were there. The consensus of opinion from those attending about use of the town owned Lakewood area property was that it is difficult to access and not a good area to develop for public use.

### **New Business**

Troy advised Parks members of the Otisfield Historical Society meeting to be held September 26<sup>th</sup> when there will be a three part presentation about the Jugtown Forest. Public is invited. She suggested that this is a good opportunity for Parks Advisory Committee and Open Space Commission to see how a business (Hancock Lumber) and The Nature Conservancy have worked together to set up this forest area for public use.

Fall: Student sign-ups for Fall programs (soccer, field hockey, basketball, etc) is good. Adult activities (zumba, line dancing, bowling, etc.) are filling up. Preparation for Hallowe'en is underway. It will include the library haunted house, a magician, games and refreshments. The Town Tree Lighting will be held on November 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM. Playing fields and beaches are being prepared for winter.

Discussion about Parks and Recreation and how members of the committee can assist. With so many activities in every season, Latsey suggested that if a committee member is interested in volunteering for a specific committee, activity, or program, to please call her about it. She welcomes ideas. She also said, "If you see something that should be done, something that could be added, call and let me know." It was suggested that we, as individuals, can do our own "drive-arounds" to the parks. Keep an eye on them. If we have ideas for activities now or in the coming seasons, pass the ideas on to her. There is always room for volunteers.

Fall activities: Flu Clinic October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Hallowe'en, Veterans' Breakfast, November 11<sup>th</sup>, Tree Lighting November 29<sup>th</sup>, daily gym activities, etc.

Meeting schedule: Members agreed to try the suggested by-annual meetings, Fall/September and Spring/May.

Next meeting Wednesday, May , 2014, 5 to 6 PM in Community Center.

Meeting adjourned 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Troy, chair and acting secretary

