



Town of Redding, Connecticut

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes October 21, 2002

Present: Ketcham, Cotton, Miller
Others present: 25 members of the public
Media: Redding Pilot

Mrs. Ketcham called the October 21, 2002 meeting to order at 7:55 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: That the Redding Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 21, 2002 as corrected. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

Corrections: miscellaneous typos

Motion: That the Redding Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the special meeting of October 15, 2002 as submitted. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: That the Redding Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the special meeting of October 21, 2002 as submitted. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATION ON FIELD USAGE

Paul Degener of the Park and Recreation Commission presented a Athletic Field Usage Summary Proposal which called attention to the need for additional athletic fields in Redding. The report asked the Board of Selectmen to take under advisement the addition of additional field space. The report and documentation was discussed and many questions were asked. Representatives of the various sports groups, including soccer, lacrosse, football, addressed the needs of their groups.

Suggestions for additional field space ranged from adding lights to existing fields, to working on the parking problems at the Boys and Girls Club and making use of town-owned property. Mrs. Ketcham cited a 12/98 report by Milone and McBroom that listed four potential sites for fields: Granskog property, Jennings property on Black Rock Turnpike, Topstone Park and the Boy Scout property. John Hayes did an analysis on the Granskog property and identified the northern portion (9.5 acres) of the parcel to be suitable for two standard fields and adjacent parking.

Mrs. Ketcham also suggested the potential for a private-public partnership for development of fields.

After further discussion, it was determined that the Park and Recreation Commission would recommend people to serve on a committee to flush out all the ideas discussed, including private-public funding, options and recommendation for what would be appropriate.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR LOCATION OF CONCERT ON THE GREEN

Rob Blick, Director of Park and Recreation, reported on a potential change in the location of the Concert on the Green to the Historical Society's "Onion Field". The primary reason for relocation is a safety concern. This location would provide sufficient parking, would eliminate parking on Route 107 and eliminate people walking along the roadway to their vehicles.

Mr. Blick worked with Charlie Couch of the Historical Society on a plan for the use of the property. An electrical connection would be required for this change. In addition, there would be the cost of additional mowing of the field. Mr. Couch stated that the Historical Society is in agreement with the proposal, but would retain control over the maintenance of the field, billing Park and Recreation for the expense of mowing. Mr. Blick will explore the issue of handicap accessibility further.

The Board of Selectmen asked the Park and Recreation Department to obtain estimates for the electrical work for the next meeting. The Board of Selectmen and Park & Recreation Dept. & Commission will look for input from residents on the change.

DISCUSSION ON OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF HERITAGE HOUSE

A report on the options for Heritage House was reviewed. After review of the options, the general feeling was that the sale of the property would be in the best interest of the town. No action was taken.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Update on status of Gilbert & Bennett property: a monthly report was received from Steven Soller regarding the progress. An office has been set up and Fus & O'Neill are now on board. Foreclosure action has begun.
2. Discussion on future role of Georgetown Master Plan Committee: the role of the committee was discussed and it was agreed that at the present time the Committee would remain idle. The Committee or a smaller version of the committee may be reactivated in the future.
3. Redding Day: the Redding Day event was very successful and the First Selectman has received good feedback. Patricia Moisiso was complimented, along with her committee, for the work and effort they put into the event.

ADJOURNMENT

The chair adjourned the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Maday, Recording Secretary