Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Patrick Duffy, Paul Fracasse, Karen Bertoni, Steve Trifone and Ira Kushner

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Absent: Rich Pulisciano

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING

MOTION: Mr. Duffy made a motion to accept the March 3, 2010 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Ruocco reminded the Commission the pool referendum is approaching. Mr. Ruocco thinks the referendum has potential and wanted to know what the Commission thought about it.

Mr. Nankin said he is already seeing comments. Mr. Ceccolini said the committees involved are researching co-generation and lifetime numbers. Most people he has spoken to said OpenAire looked the best and would generate more revenue. He said for all of the people already convinced that the facility is an asset; he is impressed with their thoughtfulness.

Mr. Ruocco said the pool has a long payback period. Mr. Nankin added he thinks it should always be a year-round facility.
Karen Bertoni arrived at 7:10 P.M.

Mr. Ruocco talked about bond resale and how it could save the town some money. He said he’s received e-mails regarding the pro’s and con’s of the pool and said the votes so far are pretty even.

Mr. Fracasse said he spoke to the Friends of the Pool at the parade and they think the votes are 50/50 for the referendum.

Mr. Nankin said a lot of people in town are hurting and have lost their jobs and do not want to see an increase in taxes.

Mr. Ruocco said people do not have problems with the swimming programs; it’s the building. People who are members love the facility. Mr. Ruocco talked about there not being any such thing as a government facility that isn’t subsidized.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Nankin said he received a telephone call yesterday from the Record Journal newspaper. The call referred to who is going to maintain the CYB building and concession stand. Mr. Nankin said he replied that CYB is building it and will maintain it. CYB are good partners with P&R. If something were to go wrong, they will probably just fix what had to be fixed without P&R knowing about it.

Pool Update

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that the bubble is off for the season. It took seven days and the facility opened last Saturday. He said a lot of people are purchasing seasonal memberships and people are coming in to buy seasonal passes. Mr. Ceccolini said there is an ad in the booklet that comes in the mail marketing for the pool. The booklet is delivered to 50,000 homes. If you use the ad in the booklet you receive a 10% discount for the season and a daily discount. If you use the 800 numbers in the ad it is tracked when people use that number. It is available for new members only to receive the discount.

Mr. Ceccolini said everything is running good at the pool.

Mr. Fracasse questioned what if we pass the bubble again, is it in good shape? Mr. Ceccolini said it is stored in anticipation that we will use it again.
Mr. Nankin informed Mr. Fracasse when we reach the point that the bubble doesn’t work and this doesn’t pass then we’d have to go to a referendum for a new cover.

Mr. Kushner had an idea to use the bubble for the high school fields when it can’t be used for the pool anymore.

Mr. Ceccolini said he met with Mike Roach who said we would have to reconfigure the support system, which is immense.

Mr. Nankin replied the newer bubbles don’t have the entire cross-hatching outside, only about ½ of what we have on ours.

Mr. Ceccolini said the wall that supports the scoreboards would no longer be there, the whole system would have to change.

Mr. Duffy questioned if you could have a referendum requesting a certain amount of money for the building and a certain amount of money for the bubble? Mr. Ceccolini said he doesn’t think it is possible; think it’s a yes or no vote. Mr. Ruocco agreed it is a yes or no vote.

Mr. Duffy questioned what would happen if a town building needs a new roof and the towns people vote no, do you let the roof go? Mr. Ruocco replied, technically yes. There could be a way around emergencies, infrastructure repairs are seldom denied.

Ms. Bertoni wanted to know if everyone saw the recent article in the Cheshire Herald that broke down what the cost per household would be if the referendum passed.

Mr. Ruocco made a couple of points that a permanent roof would save us a lot of money, the building is an under performing asset to the town and this is what should have been done from the beginning.

Mr. Nankin added the location in the park is a beautiful facility.

**Program Rates**

Mr. Ceccolini TABLED the program rates until he is able to speak to Michael Milone and Sheila Adams first.

**Park Rates**

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission and Mr. Ruocco every three to four years P&R goes up on the rates for our programs, i.e., basketball, soccer, etc. We told Michael Milone if we went up $5.00 it would generate approx. $17,000. We have to establish all of the rates and send them in.
The new rates would begin in September. The new brochure would come out in time in late August.

A coach runs the summer sports camps but P&R would register the kids. P&R recommends $5 - $25 per head. The high school seniors and juniors and high school coach’s work and meet the local kids in the programs.

Mr. Duffy questioned if the coaches carry their own insurance? Mr. Ceccolini replied if its basketball P&R camp is town insured. If it is at Laurel View, they have their own insurance.

Mr. Ceccolini told the Commission he would bring the fees to the next month’s meeting.

Mr. Ceccolini said we have 200 rentals a year when we rent out the town parks. Two weeks ago there was a concert in Cheshire Park as a fundraiser for an orphanage in Pakistan. It consisted of a guy from New York and it was a rap concert which ended 10-10:30 P.M.

Mr. Ceccolini said the road race held the same day, as the concert was a YMCA event. There were 500-600 runners. It started at Bartlem and was tied into the YMCA Health Fair. There were a lot more people than expected in attendance.

**WEST MAIN STREET “STREETSCAPE” COMMITTEE**

Mr. Fracasse said on May 3, 2010 all the bids were turned in. The Committee is looking at the lowest bid compared to the highest. The deadline for Phase 1 was April 29.

**DOG PARK**

Ms. Bertoni said the Committee is running out of steam because it is time consuming. There was a nice showing of people for support in the parade. The group is not interested in the 2nd annual dog picnic. Next year the group hopes to get vendors in.

Mr. Ceccolini said the dog park members were on the agenda again last week and people at the parade didn’t know they were on the agenda.

Mr. Ceccolini talked about the last request from the Planning Committee that they asked that the parking lot at Arts Place be extended. Joe Michelangelo said it could be done as long as you don’t dig down into the parking lot. Mr. Ceccolini said Mr. Shrumm suggested the Committee for the dog park run the park themselves under their own liability, their rules but lease it from the town.

*Mr. Trifone arrived at 8:10 P.M.*
BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. Trifone said the Commission is converting the flowerpots into summer plantings in the pots.
Mr. Trifone said they want to take the arbor down at the Parklet located at the corner of Route 10
and Maple Avenue.

There will be new plants in the new brick walls at the entrance of town hall.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the gas company is now going around the parklet at the center of town
instead of through it like originally planned. A discussion took place regarding the deterioration
of the bricks on the corner that look bad. Stamped concrete could be an option to look into. The
gas company will replace any bricks we want if they disturb them while working.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said there was a work crew day at Mixville Park recently. There were 17-18
people who helped paint the changing rooms, install a bocce court, etc.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Town Council approved a bid waiver to get new playground equipment
installed and replace the miracle equipment with newer miracle equipment. If you use miracle
again we get a 40 percent discount. Mr. Ceccolini suggested having P&R September’s meeting
at Mixville.

Mr. Ceccolini informed everyone that the gate guards/life guards started last week. Four loads of
sand were dumped on the beach. The passes for the park are sold at P&R; we have three nights
available to purchase them. P&R is also selling day passes to Mixville at the pool. The rates are
$5 per car for residents and $10 per car for non-residents. The goose chaser started in March.

Mr. Ceccolini said the cracks have been sealed on the linear trail; there were 139 cracks. It has
been 17-18 years since the last time it was done.

Mr. Ceccolini said there have been requests for three memorial benches, two benches on the
linear trail and one bench at Mixville Park. An Eagle Scout has requested installing a flagpole at
Quinnipiac.

Nico Mongillo, 90 Corliss Lane, 17 years old wants to install a flagpole in honor of Brad
Opheim who died at a young age of cancer. He graduated in 1988 and went on to play soccer
and continued on into law school. He graduated college and died soon after graduating.
MOTION:  Mr. Duffy made a motion to approve the recommendation to install a flagpole for Brad Opheim with lighting as required by the National Flag Standards.

MOVED:  Ms. Bertoni seconded the motion.

VOTE:  The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Ceccolini said there are two bench requests for the linear trail.

MOTION:  Mr. Trifone made a motion to accept the first memorial bench on the linear trail from the Gulati family in memorial of their daughter.

MOVED:  Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

VOTE:  The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION:  Ms. Bertoni made a motion to accept the 2nd bench from the Nuterangelo children to honor their parents.

MOVED:  Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

VOTE:  The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Ceccolini made an announcement that the town lost Greg Schena. Greg was killed in a car accident last month. Greg loved Mixville and his camp was there. There has been a request to have a memorial bench installed at Mixville Park in honor of Greg Schena.

MOTION:  Mr. Nankin made a motion to accept the request of a memorial bench at Mixville Park in honor of Greg Schena.

MOVED:  Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

VOTE:  The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Ceccolini said $700 has been collected from people to purchase the bench. Anyone can send a check into P&R to go towards the purchase of the bench.
Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said the concession stand has had minor setbacks and isn’t open yet.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that P&R is going to install cameras at Bartlem Park. You can view footage from Michael Milone’s office, P&R and the Police Department. It is preventive for predators, to stop underage drinking, and stop the break-ins of cars parked at Bartlem. The areas included would be the pool, fields, Yellow House, and the intersection at the bottom of the high school. The cameras will record up to a month’s activities. There will be a press release.

Mr. Ceccolini said it has been a good year with lacrosse, soccer and baseball. A lot of college kids are here working now and there is one month until the concert series begins.

The new brochures saved the town money.

Ms. Bertoni left the meeting at 8:35 P.M.

MOTION: Mr. Nankin made a motion to have P&R yearly September meeting at Mixville Park.

MOVED: Mr. Trifone seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously by those present.

COMMISSIONER’S FORUM

Mr. Trifone said he missed the winter meeting, happy summer to everyone.

Mr. Kushner said there was a softball fundraising tournament, P&R helped and it was a great job. The girl’s high school softball won their first game. They are going into the quarterfinals.

Mr. Duffy commented the parks and grounds look great.

Mr. Fracasse said he attended the parade and said it was a good parade.

Mr. Nankin questioned if there was any way the parking area/auxiliary area at McNamara could be cleaned up because there are big weeds.

Mr. Ceccolini said we are supposed to let it fill in then cut it down.
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Trifone made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED: Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously by those present and the meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk