

**TOWN OF RIB MOUNTAIN  
PARK COMMISSION  
October 9, 2012**

**Call to Order:** Chairperson George Snyder called the meeting to order at 4:55 PM.

**Roll call:** Bill Bursaw, Liesle Dille-Markavitch, Mai Herr, Scott Miles, Bert Nitzke, George Snyder and DuWayne Zeichert were present. Also in attendance were Becky Paul, Summer Program Coordinator and Scott Turner, Streets and Parks Superintendent.

**Approval of Minutes:** DuWayne Z. made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 11, 2012 meeting as submitted. Bert N seconded it. The motion passed.

**Streets and Parks Report:** Scott T discussed several issues that have come up recently. Both involve the Bone and Joint trail. Walkers with pets have been using the “mutt mitts” found at the lower point of the trail. These mitts state that they are “biodegradable”. People are discarding them along the trail. Scott will place another trash container further along the trail so that walkers can place their waste in the container. Also, the Bone and Joint Clinic has asked people using the overflow parking lot made available during peak walking times to not throw garbage in the clinic’s dumpster. Scott will look into posting a notice to that effect on the site.

He reported that he had contacted the lock company that installed the locks at the Doepke Park shelter. Unfortunately, they are not able to program the locks.

**Budget Priorities:** George S met with Gaylene, Town Administrator, and Scott T (Streets and Park Supt.) to discuss budget priorities. Gaylene noted the “flat budget” the Town is working under. George included a letter to the DNR and their reply about the trail extension/completion at Doepke Park. The money has been set aside and the deadline for completion extended to allow that project to be finished.

George also introduced Becky Paul to discuss the Summer Program recommendations about afternoon over-crowding. She presented numbers and explained that additional children attended the PM program after attending summer school in the morning. These increased numbers are a safety concern. In addition, the range of students (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders) is difficult to accommodate with only two teachers. Becky presented several options – reducing/capping enrollment, restricting the program to 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders, limiting enrollment to Rib Mountain residents only, eliminate the AM session at Rib Mountain Elementary School or hiring an additional half-time staff member to help supervise and work with the afternoon program. The Commission discussed all these ideas but also discussed keeping the program open to as many children as possible as a service to the community. Becky noted that there were many positive comments from parents about the scheduling and programs offered in the Summer Program. The fact that the program has been under budget would allow the hiring of an additional half-time person. Scott T discussed how the budget is allocated and bills paid. Bill B made a motion to hire an additional half-time teacher to assist in the afternoon session (limit of 20 hours per week) to be paid for with an increase of fees from the current \$40 per child to \$50.00 per child. DuWayne seconded the motion. The discussion of the motion asked why an increase in fees was needed if the budget had a surplus. It was pointed out that the current rate is only about \$1.00 per day per child. The increase would still not make the cost of the Summer Program too expensive. The motion passed 4-2. (The dissenting votes agreed that the half-time teacher was needed but did not think the fee increase was necessary.)

**Communications:** There were several letters/e-mails received about the new playground equipment at Liberty Park. The replacement of the dangerous equipment was greatly appreciated by residents in that neighborhood. George S had talked with the Szymanski family and informed them that a plaque recognizing their contributions at the park was now displayed at the shelter.

**Financial Report:** George S noted that shelter rentals totaled \$3100.

**Park Brochure:** George S reported that Gaylene intends to take the brochure to the Foundation Board (now that we have tax exempt status) for funding of the printing costs.

**Elections:** Bill B made a motion to accept the slate of officers listed below. Liesle D seconded the motion. The motion passed,

George Snyder, Chairperson,  
Bert Nitzke, Vice Chairperson  
Scott Miles, Secretary

**Open Discussion:** Bill B discussed a change in hunting on state lands that will take effect in January 2013. The state legislature passed the “Hunting Heritage Bill” in 2011. The new law opens state lands to hunting, trapping and fishing. The DNR will be redrawing maps after public listening sessions around the state take place this fall. The boundaries will exclude the areas at the top (trails) of Rib Mountain but smaller caliber rifles will be allowed for small game hunters throughout the rest of the park lands. There were questions about endangering residents that live in lands adjacent to the park. Bill B suggested attending one of the upcoming listening sessions.

Bill B made a motion to adjourn. Bert seconded it. The motion passed.