West Brookfield Common Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 28, 2014

Attendance: Bob Richard (Chair)
             Rayne Petruzzi
             Suzanne LePage

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Bob Richard called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM.

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the July 14 meeting was approved. Ms. LePage will post to the Town website.

3. **Treasurer’s Report:** Ms. Petruzzi presented electric bills. It was noted that electric use in August (1879 kWh) was significantly higher than in July (806 kWh), due to increased use of electricity by vendors at the Concerts on the Common events. Additionally, a reimbursement request for Bandstand flowers was presented. Items were approved for payment, and appropriate warrants were signed.

4. **Donation Offers:** A letter from a former resident offering to donate money towards a bench was presented and discussed. It was noted that others in Town had previously made similar offers, resulting in a wait list. Ms. Petruzzi offered to check with the previous Treasurer (Betti DiMaio) to get a copy of the list. Quotes for benches were received from the Bench Factory (same company that supplied the existing benches) in the order of $842 per bench plus shipping costs (approximately $200). However, the previous purchases were at lower costs ($748 per bench), because a higher volume was ordered. Perhaps the ball field benches could be ordered at the same time to reduce the unit costs. Ms. Petruzzi requested a catalog so that ball field benches could be selected.

   Ms. Petruzzi suggested investigating the purchase of picnic tables as well. Three locations were discussed (one on Route 9 side; one on Route 67 side; and one closer to Town). Mr. Richard expressed some concern about winter storage, but the Committee decided they should seek out all-weather materials. Alternatively, they could be stored in basement of the Bandstand.

5. **Trash Removal:** The Committee discussed reducing the number of trashcans from 8 to 4. Chairman Richard will contact LeBoef to see if this can be done. If picking up trashcans is problematic, we could offer to store the extras in the Bandstand over the winter, thereby reducing the number of cans that need to be emptied. Mr. Richard will discuss this with LeBoef and see if he can negotiate a cheaper cost with this arrangement.
6. **Bylaw Development**: Discussion ensued on the interpretation of non-profit v. for-profit vendors. The Committee agreed that allowing for-profit businesses to operate in the Common would be in violation of the deed restriction. Ms. LePage noted that Town Counsel affirmed that restrictions on use made by the Common Committee cannot be effectively enforced without bylaws. Ms. Petruzzi expressed concern that overly restrictive bylaws would not be beneficial. Committee members agreed. Ms. LePage offered to draft bylaws for Committee discussion, stressing that a public process later would allow for additional input. To start, she will use the previous Committee’s draft rules as well as historic documentation of use restrictions as a basis for the first draft.

7. **Next Meeting’s Agenda**: The Committee listed the following agenda items:
   - West Brookfield Little League & Common Ball Field Improvements
   - Approval of Minutes
   - Financial Items/Treasurer’s Report
   - Ongoing Bylaw Development
   - Maintenance Items
   - New Business

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.