

**TOWN OF STRATFORD  
BOOTHE MEMORIAL PARK COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**June 24, 2014**

The Boothe Memorial Park Commission of the Town of Stratford conducted a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Employee Lounge on the lower level of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford CT, pursuant to notice duly given and posted.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Presiding: Chairman Stephanie Philips

Commissioners in Attendance: J. Brazzell, D. Caserta, S. Voccola, P. DeVitto, F. Kecko

Commissioners Absent: , B. Burton, R. Brown, J. Connor, J. Malloy, S. Voccola, A. Scala

Others in Attendance: P. Patusky (Recreation Dept.) E. Severn and George DeSantis (BMAS), Bill Dressler and Jeff Heisner (BMRS Garden Display), Ann Minton and Bridget Masaryk (Friends of Boothe)

1. **Approval of Minutes**: The Minutes of the 5/27/14 Regular Meeting were corrected as follows: Item 3b BMAS – new door on Observatory had not been installed; Item 4a Pumpkin Festival – Town Council total budget approved at \$6,200. Hearing no further comments or corrections, the Minutes were approved and accepted on motion by P. DeVitto and seconded by D. Caserta.
2. **Financial Report**: Chairman Philips reiterated that Town Council approved a total budget of \$6,200 for the Pumpkin Festival as of 7/1/14; expenditures to date are up to \$9,500.
3. **Volunteers' Reports**:
  - a. **BMRS** – see Item 4c below.
  - b. **BMAS** – E. Severn and G. DeSantis reported on break-ins and vandalism at Observatory in October, March and April – access through doors and dome. Discussion re security system breaches and minimal response from Police Dept. Electrical service to Observatory runs from street poles and BMAS pays separately – need to be addressed. E. Severn to submit copies of bills to Chairman Philips. Further discussion re tree plan around Observatory building – Chairman Philips discussed with town employees to have trees identified that are diseased or dying. Plan to have Public Works attend a BMPC meeting to discuss same. The new door is still to be installed.
  - c. **Rose Garden** – F. Kecko reported that benches are to be placed by Public Works, edging blocks to be installed; there have been no problems with thefts this season.
  - d. **Friends of Boothe** – Welcome to Ann Minton and Bridget Masaryk to the meeting, who reported that the painting of the Homestead is on schedule.
  - e. **Student Volunteers Liaison** – no report at this time.

4. **Pending/Continuing Business:**

- a. **Pumpkin Festival 2014** – Chairman Philips reported that plans are progressing on schedule. Discussion re pumpkins, food, DJ, bus shuttle, horse & buggy ride, inflatables (3 BMPC, 1 Recreation Dept.), decorative flowers/plants, rolling railroad (new attraction), scarecrow & pie-baking contests. Further updates at next meeting.
- b. **Spring Social/Open House for Town Officials** – discussion of tentative plans and date change to 10/8; additional volunteers from Friends of Boothe.
- c. **BMRS Garden Railroad Display** – P. DeVitto introduced and welcomed members Jeff Heisner and Bill Dressler who presented a written proposal with plans and timeline for a garden-scale outdoor railroad display near the Train Museum (side of building facing Main Street). It would be erected within a knee-high block wall with benches around the display. They would also plant dwarf conifers and ground-cover plantings. Electricity to be accessed from Train Museum exterior outlets. BMRS would be responsible for security, maintenance, any damages sustained. Discussion followed re non-profit fiduciary; permission/permits from BMPC, Town Planning & Zoning and Public Works.

**Motion by D. Caserta to approve the proposed plans as presented by members of the BMRS, and to move it forward to the Town Attorney's office for submission to the Connecticut Historical Society, seconded by P. DeVitto.**

**After further discussion, a friendly amendment was made on a Motion by S. Philips to support the next steps toward looking at resources, permitting and approvals, and to learn if there will be any impediments to progressing with plans, seconded by P. DeVitto and passed unanimously.**

5. **New Business:**

- a. **Boothe Park Rentals** – Report of 2014 Fee Comparisons for Boothe Park and Short Beach were distributed for review, as well as Revenue Report Analysis. To be addressed and discussed at next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014.**

6. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on a motion by P. DeVitto and seconded by D. Caserta.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Debbie Gallo*  
Recording Secretary