

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

The Boothe Memorial Park Commission of the Town of Stratford conducted a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, JANUARY 26, 2016 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.

Commissioners in Attendance: R. Brown, B. Burton, D. Caserta, P. DeVitto, F. Kecko

Commissioners Absent: J. Brazzell, S. Voccola, J. Connor, J. Malloy, A. Scala

Others in Attendance: Council members Vincent Chase and Tina Manus, R. Betts and R. Giuliani of the Radio Club, E. Severn of BMAS

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the 9/29/15 Regular Meeting were approved and accepted on a motion by D. Caserta, seconded by F. Kecko and passed unanimously.
2. **Financial Report:** No report at this time.
3. **Pending/Continuing Business:**
 - a. **BMRS:** P. DeVitto reported that construction began on the Garden Railroad Display in November; 501c3 status has been obtained; in-kind donations are expected for the paving blocks and fill dirt; they will be soliciting donations for the outdoor stainless steel track system.
 - b. **Pumpkin Festival 2015:** D. Caserta reported that the event was very successful once again and well attended; added attractions were welcomed and enjoyed by all; directional signage continues to be a problem – needs to be addressed; the Pie Baking Contest was bigger than ever (including 3 young bakers); there were 8 contestants for the Scarecrow Contest; donuts provided by “Donut Crazy” were a huge success and some of their employees helped out also.
4. **Volunteers’ Reports:**
 - a. **BMRS:** P. DeVitto reported that the Train Museum is open the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays for their volunteer workers, and is open to the public on Saturdays from 1-4pm. The front door of the building and the wooden windows still need repair and/or replacement.
 - b. **BMAS:** E. Severn reported that the new telescope is finally done after 3½ years; the eclipse event at the end of October was well attended by the public (some were able to see it through the new telescope); trees have finally been removed for better visibility; building interior is to be painted in the spring; new door locks have been installed (still need new door); security lights are working.
 - c. **Rose Garden:** F. Kecko reported that some of the rose bushes started to grow in December due to the warm weather.

- d. **Radio Club:** R. Betts and R. Giuliani reported that some tree trimming has been done, however there is more to do; they are working on getting the antenna and towers back up and need a tree moved if possible for at least a 15' radius (Council member T. Manus will address this issue with the town employees); there is also a lot of digital work being done; and they are working on establishing a college scholarship for \$1,000 in the name of Alan Thorpe.
- e. **Friends of Boothe Park:** B. Burton reported that a local historic group would like to use the Dining Hall to conduct a lunch meeting and display some antique tools, with a tour of the Park afterwards. Motion was made by D. Caserta to consider waiving \$175 of the rental fee for use of the Dining Hall in April 2016; after brief discussion, a friendly amendment to the motion was made by D. Caserta making it subject to approval by the Recreation Department, both seconded by P. DeVitto and passed unanimously.

Additionally, B. Burton addressed the issue of requests for funding being made by members of the Boothe Memorial Railway Society for certain structural issues on the Train Museum. She stated that the first obligation of the Friends of Boothe Park and this Commission is to take care of the Park, and recommends that BMRS should separately fundraise and pay for their own building maintenance, repair and supplies. The Boothe Memorial Park Commission is an advisory commission only for recommendations to the Town Council. Over the years many things have changed contrary to the rules already established with regard to Boothe Park. She strongly urges that BMRS apply for CDA and other grant monies. Council Member T. Manus volunteered to assist BMRS in finding monies through grants and foundations.

- f. **Student Volunteers:** no report at this time.

5. **New Business:**

- a. It was noted that clean-up at the Park by town employees after the Pumpkin Festival was not done until 3 weeks later.
- b. Council Member V. Chase reported that he spoke to Mayor Harkins with regard to re-appointing Stephanie Philips as BMPC Chairman, and he is in favor of same. The matter will be addressed and voted on at a regular Town Council meeting.

6. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. on a motion by Council Member V. Chase, seconded by Council Member T. Manus, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Gallo, Recording Secretary