

**Town of Mansfield
Parks Advisory Committee
Minutes
February 1, 2012
Secretary – Al Montoya**

Present: Sue Harrington, Tom Harrington, Dan Vitullo, Al Montoya, Norma LaMonaco, Jennifer Kaufman and Bill Thorn.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M.
- II. The minutes for the January 4, 2012 meeting were approved with minor changes.
- III. Old Business
 - a. Management plans
 - i. The committee will begin to review management plans as soon as possible.
 - b. Park updates
 - i. Tom checked out Sawmill Brook Preserve. He took pictures and sent them back to Jennifer.
 - ii. Jennifer checked up on Shelter Farms Park and noted that there was a large tree down across the river. The parks department went out and looked at it. In addition, the DEP trail needs to be marked.
 - iii. Bill Thorn discussed projects that his students could do to help with the maintenance of the parks.
 - c. Parks projects/grants/initiatives
 - i. A grant was submitted to help design a handicap trail around Bicentennial Pond.
 - ii. A grant was submitted for an urban trail through downtown Mansfield. No news on the status yet.
 - d. Spring programs
 - i. There were several upcoming programs that were discussed to include: Bird & Breakfast on Mother's Day, Trails Day (Dorwart) and programs planned by the Willimantic Alliance
 - ii. The upcoming tracking program is ready to go.
 - e. Open Space Action Plan
 - i. The PAC committee will review the action plan and discuss at the March meeting.
- IV. New Business
 - a. NAV Volunteer Award
 - i. The Committee decided that the annual NAV Volunteer Award should be given to the Boy Scout groups who completed projects throughout the last year. The groups will

be invited to the March meeting at 7:00 and presented the award. Cookies and refreshments will follow.

- ii. Bill Thorn, Agriculture Education Teacher at E.O. Smith, presented a plan to cut five trees in the Torrey Preserve. The trees consist of two red oaks, one white oak, and two white pines. The Ag. Ed. Students will use them to practice on. The Torrey Preserve abuts Bill Thorn's property. The committee recognized the educational importance of this. The committee also expressed concern with taking the trees prior to late spring. Bill assured the committee that they would be taken prior to that and the committee approved the request.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Al Montoya, Secretary