



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARKS AND FIELDS REPORT

TO: Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission,
Amy Mangold, Director

FROM: Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director – Parks

DATE: February, 2014

RE: Monthly park update and field report

Repeated snowstorms, especially the bigger ones have kept our crews busy with snow duties. When not actively plowing during a storm much of our staff can be found trucking snow from hydrants, blind spots and corners in the days following snow events. When we are not busy with snow and ice removal tasks we have completed the following:

- Training for new product innovations as well as Union relations. (Often we offer training for required credits to maintain or apply for specialty licensing)
- Invasive clearing in “yard” area of Maintenance Facility.
- Backstop repairs at Hawley 1.
- Fencing repairs at Tilson Field
- Fence clearing at Tilson
- OSHA inspection and air quality testing at Maintenance Garage.
- Gate install at Dickinson complete.
- Skating rink upkeep as well as skate party setup and breakdown.
- Shelf installation at new Treadwell camp room.

Items we have started/continued work on:

- Fence clearing at Dickinson Park.
- Brush and trail clearing ongoing on meadows and trails.
- Seasonal clean up and equipment refurbishing ongoing.
- Continued operator training program for Park Maintainers.
- Tree and brush clearing from docks at Eichlers Cove
- Tree and brush clearing from tennis courts at Treadwell.
- Fence removal at Treadwell courts for subsurface boring investigation.

Staff:

- 320 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1600 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 20% loss in workforce or 2 employees per day.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE NEWTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL SOUTH
FEBRUARY 11, 2014**

These minutes are subject to approval by the Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Marks called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

Commission Members present: Marks, Boritz, Crick Owen, Brookes, Barczak and DiNicola

Commission Members absent: Yanni Jr.

Staff present: Mangold, Samuelson

Staff absent: Reggiano

Public: Mary Kate Halmose and Christine Halmose

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

(m/s/c: Crick Owen/DiNicola) "Motion to approve the minutes of November 12, 2013." The motion passed unanimously.

(m/s/c: Crick Owen/Brookes) "Motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2014." The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mary Kate Halmose of 10 Buttonball Drive, Sandy Hook returned to the Commission with details on her Lending Library at Dickinson and Treadwell parks as well as Eichler's Cove Beach/Marina for her Girl Scout Gold Award Project. The commission was very receptive to her ideas and thanked Ms. Halmose for answering all their questions. Chairman Marks asked that when she is ready to place the units for the Lending Library that she contact Parks and Recreation first so that the installation can be done in a way as to make them permanent. Ms. Halmose would like the Lending Library to be sustainable through younger troops who might want to take over the project.

(m/s/c: Boritz/Brookes) "Motion to approve the Lending Library project as proposed by Mary Kate Halmose." The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- The 2014/2015 Parks and Recreation Budget was submitted and approved by the Board of Selectman.
- Bonding Resolution for the Treadwell Renovation project (new tennis courts and parking lot site line revision) was approved by both the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance. This project should be completed by the beginning of camp at the end of June 2014 or after camp, begin construction. The goal is to not have construction in the park during Day Camp sessions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Mangold reported that we are in the process of renting slips for 2014 Season at Eichler's Cove Marina. There was no early rental discount this year.
- First Selectman Llodra, Chairman Marks, Director Mangold, Assistant Director Reggiano and members from the Commission on Aging attend regular Community Center meetings to discuss and work on the vision for the Community Center. Members of this group will be visiting Mansfield Community Center on Friday, February 21 at 10:00 am.
- The Contractor for the Dickinson Playground project is still confident with the completion date of June 14, 2014. The Commission is comfortable with a late July Grand Opening for the playground.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS – PARKS AND FIELDS REPORT

- See attached report.
- Assistant Director Samuelson reported that some work has begun on the Treadwell tennis court project.
- OSHA inspected and did air quality testing at the Maintenance Garage. Preliminary results show no major violations and that everything looks good.
- Assistant Director Samuelson put in a request for the Tech. Department to hook up the door alarms at the Treadwell pool house.

- The gate at Dickinson Park has been installed.
- Fencing for the dog park is on hold due to the 34 inch frost line.
- The crew will hopefully be working on trimming trees at Eichler's Cove next week.
- Babe Ruth Baseball and Babe Ruth Softball will be putting in a letter of request for a new baseball field at Fairfield Hill. Their request would include half the bill to be paid out of surcharge and the other half paid by the leagues.
- Neighbors facing Glander Baseball fields do not like having to look at porta potties all spring/summer/fall. Will discuss with new league director for a resolution to this issue.
- Assistant Director Samuelson announced to the Commission that Park Maintainer Linda Bradley- Gillette will be retiring as of April 1, 2014. Assistant Director Samuelson asked the Commission if a gift from the Commission was appropriate. The Commission agreed on a gift certificate to a restaurant for \$100.00.

(m/s/c: Crick Owen/Barczak) "Motion to approve spending \$100.00 from the Park Gift Fund for a retirement gift for Linda Bradley-Gillette." The motion passed unanimously.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – RECREATION REPORT – reported by Director Mangold

- Assistant Director Reggiano has a new request for a waiver from Scott Larsen for an AAU Girls Basketball team. Mr. Larson was granted a waiver last year for the same team. The Commission requested that Mr. Larson complete the paper work again and if nothing has changed from last year he will not need a waiver from the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DOG PARK UPDATE – reported by Director Mangold

- The Grand Opening for the Dog Park will be Saturday, May 3, 2014 at 11:00 am. The rain date will be Sunday, May 4 at 1:30 pm.

2. 2014/15 BUDGET

- See Chairman's report.

3. JOSEPH AUGUSTINE – Men's Senior Baseball League – Field Request

- Tabled.

4. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - Prioritize

- Tabled.

5. SURCHARGE DISCUSSION

- Tabled

6. COMMISSIONER'S OUT AND ABOUT

- No reports

7. OTHER

NEW BUSINESS

1. OTHER

(m/s/c: Crick Owen/Boritz) "Motion to adjourn." The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna Benson
Commission Clerk