

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a special meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:01 pm.

Present: Edward Marks, Maureen Crick Owen, Linda Hess, Warren Spencer, Vincent Yanni, Jr., PJ Yochum

Absent: Patrick Barczak

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: Bob Doiron, LOF Adaptive Skiers; Elizabeth Kloczko, LOF Adaptive Skiers; Joel Zeisler, LOF Adaptive Skiers; Kathryn Wolf, LOF Adaptive Skiers; Chad Goodhue, LOF Adaptive Skiers

Public Participation: Mr. Joel Zeisler from *LOF (Leaps of Faith) Adaptive Skiers* came before the commission to introduce the LOF organization to Parks and Recreation and to talk about any possibilities of leasing or being able to use property on Lake Lillinonah or Eichler's Cove. Mr. Zeisler explained to the commission that LOF Adaptive Skiers has been operating in the local area since 1992 and is the leader in the area for adaptive water skiing. It is a non-profit organization that exposes individuals with disabilities to be able to water ski and snow ski. When the organization started in 1992, they were working with the blind and vision impaired. The organization graduated to working with patients from rehabs and hospitals, offering a program to individuals with many other disabilities. LOF is also the first organization in the area to do, *Wounded Warrior Project* events for returning troops. With the growing interest in snow skiing, LOF started a snow adaptive skiing program 6 years ago. LOF offers to teach individuals with disabilities to ski, take part in competition, and attend camps. LOF now does 6 Saturday events on Lake Zoar (2 to 3 days during the week from mid-june to early September). They also partake in many off sight events. The organization is looking into the future and would like to expand their programs. The future vision of LOF is to construct a building with lodge area (lake side), accessible bathroom/shower, offices, area accessible work out equipment and mats, storage for ski equipment, and a space to offer programs including, but not limited to fitness, education, mentorship, socialization, and community integration for individuals with disabilities. They also envision property with space for a floating dock, catwalk, slips for jet skis and boats. Ms. Elizabeth Kloczko a volunteer with LOF, is an occupational therapist and works with many individuals with disabilities, has witnessed the confidence that this program gives individuals, not only skiing, but in their careers and life as well. Ms. Kathryn Wolf is also a volunteer with LOF and explained to the commission that the volunteerism is amazing. Mr. Marks inquired if LOF is losing their current access to the lake or if this is in addition to the access they already have? Mr. Zeisler responded that this an initiative for the future of growing and expanding the program. Mr. Bob Doiron, a volunteer shared his passion for the program and explained that LOF's goal is to form an alliance with the Town of Newtown. Mr. Marks has requested that LOF put together a list of the basic criteria features that they would need/like and send the proposal to Director Amy Mangold. LOF is exploring all options and inquiring with other towns and utility companies as well. Mr. Chad Goodhue, a volunteer with LOF stated his passion for the program and witnesses the positive feedback and results from the participants.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. moved to accept the Minutes from February 14, 2017 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded.

- Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen noted a correction under the *Public Participation*: in second paragraph, third sentence, the sentence was corrected to: Ms. Davis explained to the commission that the association is very concerned that Cherry Grove Farm is on the market for sale and the possible impact new buyers could have on the trail system.
- Director Amy Mangold noted a correction under *Old Business: Community Center*: to read: Director Amy Mangold reported an update from Geralyn Hoerauf to the former advisory committee for the Community Center. The Project Team is very involved with meeting with many facets regarding surveying, soil analysis, wetlands, excavating, etc. on all the locations that have been identified. Design teams are continuing to develop schematic designs, including potential location for senior center and exterior amenities. The Project Team expects to present space program tabulation, alternative design concept more fully develop master plan to the BOS presentation on March 6, 2017. The project team with members of the former Advisory Committee will be meeting on February 24th to prepare for the March 6th presentation.

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. moved to accept the amended minutes from February 14, 2017 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded. All voted in favor of the amended minutes.

Old Business:

- *Surcharge:*

Mr. Marks distributed copies of several P&R accounting reports to review and discuss. The goal of the commission is to come up with a streamlined report of tracking surcharge. One possible way to keep track of surcharge as well as expenses is using a report from RecTrac. One of the objections is to track expenditures, especially on projects, through the RecTrac reporting tool. Ms. Reggiano will take a look at running a monthly surcharge report from RecTrac. Mr. Marks stated that he feels that the team is making progress on reconciliation and how we are projecting to meeting our obligations.

- *Glander Field 3:*

Mr. Marks stated that the remaining project cost is approximately \$54,000.00, of which Babe Ruth was going to cover roughly \$24,000.00 to 25,000.00 of the projects. The large remaining project is the fencing, (encapsulating the field). Mr. Samuelson stated there is a lot activity that occurs around Glander Field 3 field in particular, i.e.: the walking trail. The fencing will protect the field, by keeping people using the trail from walking across the field or walking their dogs on the field as well as deter from vandalism.

Motion:

Commissioner PJ Yochum made a motion to use up to \$30,000.00 from surcharge to complete the fencing around the perimeter of Glander Field 3. Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Samuelson stated that the Lacrosse organization is very concerned with Treadwell Park lacrosse field because cars are being damaged from fast balls. Mr. Samuelson reached out to a company called Beacon Athletics to inquire about a protective net that they can raise and lower during and after games. A protective fence would cost approximately \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00. The lacrosse organization indicated that they might be willing to contribute.

Community Center:

Ms. Mangold, Mr. Marks and Ms. Crick Owen attended the BOS meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017. During in which there was much discussion on the community center and moving forward. The commission talked about the discussions and results of the BOS meeting.

New Business: None

Correspondence:

- Town Clerk, Debbie Halstead reached out to Ms. Mangold, requesting a list of all the commissioners' names, phone numbers and emails. The town is in the process of updating the town website.
- Ms. Mangold received an email from an Eagle Scout regarding a project that was done at a local bus stop on Crab Apple and reached out to Parks and Recreation to thank the staff for their help.
- Mr. Samuelson stated that the police chief reached out the park maintainers to thank them for the great job they were doing during snow clean up.
- Mr. Marks received an email from First Selectman, Pat Llodra regarding High Meadow.

Chairman's Report

Edward Marks, Chairman Of Parks and Recreation:

- Mr. Marks requested that the P&R gift fund discussion be added to the April commission meeting agenda.

Director's Report

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Mangold distributed the Summer P&R newspaper flyer to all the commissioners. The flyer includes all upcoming activities and events for the Summer 2017.
- Ms. Mangold stated that she is very pleased with the staff and that the increase in customer service is very apparent.
- Ms. Mangold is looking at rebranding the P&R logo. The current logo has been used for 20+ years. Mr. Marks has requested that Ms. Mangold bring some examples to show the commission.
- Ms. Mangold and Ms. Reggiano are continuing to make great community connections and partners. They are including more agencies in their events to help bring in more participants and get P&R brand out there.
- Eichler's Cove boat slip rentals for summer 2017 are quickly filling up. There are currently under 10 slips still available. The jet ski slips are not renting. The commissioners discussed that possibly the rental fee was too high. The dry storage for canoes and kayaks is and has always been in great demand each year. The plan is to move the dry storage to the beach for easier launching.
- P&R is currently looking for a vendor for the Treadwell Park concession stand. The concession stand is open from Memorial Day thru Labor Day.
- Ms. Mangold had an all staff meeting scheduled, which was cancelled due to snow.

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- The Torpedoes swim team held a successful swim a-thon fundraiser and will be using some of the monies to purchase a new lane line reel and backstroke flags.
- Summer job applications closed on March 9th and the team is beginning to set up interviews for summer staff.
- Site directors and assistant directors are returning for both park camps this summer.
- There is a family Canvas paint night on March 22nd. It will be held at the NMS from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Studio Move is facilitating the event. The funds raised from this activity are going towards the P&R camp scholarship.

- April 7th is the Flashlight Egg Hunt
- April 8th is the annual Egg Hunt with the amazing DJ, Austin Daly.
- April 29th is the P&R annual Rooster Run.
- April 30th is the annual Garden/Maypole Party from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.
- May 6th & 7th is the Fruit Trail awakening.
- May 12th is the 2nd annual Senior Citizens Prom. P&R is working with Commission on aging, Friends of the seniors, Senior Center, Newtown Youth & Family Services and Fusion.
- May 13th is the 8th annual Strutt Your Mutt event.
- June 17th is the Food Truck Festival.
- June 17th is the Mad Dash.

RoseAnn stated that P&R has reached out to Health and Wellness, Newtown Ambulance, and Parent Connection to see if they would like to be involved with both events that are going to be held on June 17, 2017.

- Ms. Reggiano is working closely with the coaches from the High School to run activities and programs. Ms. Reggiano wanted to thank the Matt Memoli, Director of Athletics for facilitating this.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

See attachment

- Spring clean-up efforts are a little delayed because of snow storm Stella.
- The retaining wall at Treadwell, in front of the basketball Court has been completed. Mr. Samuelson just received the parking lot plans from Stantec, so it is ready to out to bid at the end of this week. The plan includes a sidewalk in between the new retaining wall and parking lot for safe and easy access to pool area.
- Bathroom and locker room renovations continue at the Parks shop.
- The retaining wall at Eichler's Cove is 95% complete. It will soon be ready for paving, weather permitting.
- The section of the dock at Eichler's Cove that keeps breaking has been brought to a welder to be repaired.
- The town is acquiring the SAC property, off Riverside Road, which is a total of 7.8 acres. The property is being divided up between Newtown under water rescue: 1 acre; Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire Department: 1 acre; Treadwell Park lot line is being revised to prevent land lock and will be getting 5.8 acres.

Commissioners out and about: None

Motion:

Commissioner Linda Hess made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner PJ Yochum, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

Submitted by,

Gabriella Chernoff, clerk

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CARL SAMUELSON
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PARKS

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: March 21, 2017

RE: Monthly park update and field report

Stella made a big impact on the crew duties but we are in full swing for spring prep.

Dickinson Park: The ice rink has been broken down and removed.

Orchard Hill: No new news here.

Lake Lillinonah: No new news here.

Glander Fields: We just started spring work here prior to “Stella”. Things will be on hold until next week when the snow melts.

Liberty Fields: Fields here are quiet for the winter. We are still planning on cutting the meadows here when the snow melts.

Oakview: No new news here. We have scheduled spring injection pump service here.

Tilson Field: No new news here.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: These fields are quiet for the winter.

Walnut Tree: Things are quiet for the winter here.

Treadwell Park: The retaining wall at the basketball court is complete and now we are working on some surrounding drainage. The two trees between the court and playground were removed, one inadvertently. We will be planting at least on fairly mature tree in a better location here to retain the shade so many seek here.



Fairfield Hills: The ice skating rink has been removed for the season. Bathroom and locker room renovations continue at the shop. New shelving and some lighting was added this past month.

Eichlers Cove Marina: Work was stalled here due to heavy snow but progress has started up again. Most of the wall work has been completed here and the grading for the upper parking area has begun.



NHS Fields: We never got a second application of wintergreen applied due to snow cover but things seemed to be in decent shape when we saw a bit of exposed turf before last weeks storm. Otherwise all is quiet for now.

Dog Park: Things are quiet for the winter.

Staff:

- 248 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1840 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 13.5% loss in workforce.