

Town of Newtown, CT

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 in the Conference Room, 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks at 6:00 pm.

Present: Edward Marks, Linda Hess, Rance Thompson, Clinton DePaolo, Vincent Yanni, Jr., Patrick Barczak and Warren Spencer

Staff Present: Amy Mangold and Carl Samuelson

Absent: RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: Alex Ortner, Newtown Soccer Alliance
78 Walnut Tree Hill Rd., Newtown, CT 06470
Charley Amblo, NHS Boys Soccer Coach, NSA
22 Glen Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482
Glenn Boyle, Newtown Tennis Association
2 Marlin Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482
Ehab Farah, Newtown Tennis Association
34 West Street, Newtown, CT 06470
Brad Accettella, Guardian Bikes, Bike & Trails Committee
Newtown, CT 06470
Kendra Bobowick, The Newtown Bee

Public Participation:

Mr. Glenn Boyle and Mr. Ehab Farah, representing Newtown Tennis Association, inquired about pricing to put lights in at the Dickinson Park tennis courts from Assistant Director of Parks, Carl Samuelson. Mr. Samuelson provided them with a quote from Musco of \$170,000. (See attachment #1). Mr. Samuelson explained to Mr. Farah that the reason it is so expensive is that there is no conduit underneath the courts to support lights so there is quite a bit of engineering that needs to be done. Mr. Farah asked if we could procure a few more quotes, and that perhaps, if we had at least three quotes, NTA could ask for a grant from the United States Tennis Association to help get the project financed. Mr. Farah also stated that they would like to sponsor campers for Tennis Camp Scholarships with monies made from their tennis tournament. Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman, Ed Marks, thanked Newtown Tennis Association for their generosity and commitment to tennis in Newtown. Mr. Samuelson also informed NTA that the Dickinson Park tennis courts are being resurfaced in the fall of 2019.

Mr. Brad Accettella who is a member of the newly formed Newtown Bike and Trails Committee, and also a director at a bicycle company called Guardian Bikes, offered an extremely kind donation of 120 children's bicycles to Newtown Parks and Recreation. However, we need to find a way to get the bikes here, as they are in a warehouse in Salt Lake City, Utah. Chairman Marks stated to Mr. Accettella, that "whatever you need from us to get the bikes here, let us know". This opens up many exciting possibilities for a bike share program in the very near future.

Motion:

Commissioner Clinton DePaolo made a motion to accept the gracious gift of 120 bicycles from Guardian Bikes. Commissioner Vincent Yanni seconded it. The motion was then carried out unanimously.

Mr. Alex Ortner and Mr. Charley Amblo, both of Newtown Soccer Alliance, joined the meeting to discuss some of their frustrations with Newtown Soccer Club, namely transparency. They feel they are meeting with resistance in trying to affect change in how things are done, especially when it comes to treatment of the players and involving parents more. They also mentioned that they would like to offer a 6 week training program using their philosophy of coaching, and were inquiring about field time and availability. They were told that they could probably procure field time in the summer for that program. Commission Chairman Ed Marks later stated that it is much easier for Newtown Soccer Alliance to work within the framework set by Newtown Soccer Club moving forward, and that a meeting needs to be set up between both soccer groups to promote transparency and cooperation.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion:

Commissioner Clinton DePaolo made a motion to accept the Minutes from the March 12, 2019 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Linda Hess seconded the motion. All voted in favor to accept the minutes.

Old Business:

- *Budget: (Pickleball Courts)*

The proposal for 4 Pickleball Courts will be on the April 23rd town budget referendum. Funding for lights is not included in the proposal. However, Mr. Samuelson stated that they are putting down conduit for future lights. Commissioner Rance Thompson stated that people who use the courts should be more directly responsible for paying for them, while Commissioner Clinton DePaolo pointed out that the cost is only one half of one percent of the Capital Improvement Plan. It was emphasized that Pickleball fits within the overall plan for age friendly, health initiatives.

- *Newtown Bike and Trails Committee:*

In addition to the above mentioned bicycle donation, another donation of approximately 5 bikes and five scooters (and helmets) was made anonymously. Also, Parks & Recreation Director Amy Mangold stated that we have agreed to pay for the Bike and Trails Committee's banner, adding that a new Parks & Recreation logo is being put on the banner, opening up discussion about other possible Parks & Rec logos. Chairman Marks added that they could perhaps experiment with different colors using the same overall theme.

- *Aqua Cycles:*

Commissioner Clinton DePaolo followed up on the possibility of introducing Aqua Cycles at Eichler's Cove for public use. Not only are they quite expensive, but perhaps cost prohibitive insurance/liability-

wise. Lake Zoar was thought to have too much motorboat activity to warrant Aqua Cycles at this time. It was mentioned to ask on the next Eichler's Cove survey, what amenity would be desired, if any.

New Business:

None.

Chairman's Report:

Edward Marks, Chairman Newtown Parks and Recreation:

None.

Director's Reports:

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Mangold passed out her and Commission Chairman Ed Mark's spring letter that was sent out along with the Parks & Recreation's new spring & summer brochures. (See attachment #2).
- Staff appreciation day is set for Wednesday, April 24, to be held throughout lunchtime.
- Ms. Mangold also gave a surcharge report. Parks & Recreation has a balance of \$664,658.81 and has spent only \$7,508 and brought in \$96,852.50 year to date.
- A new ADA compliant Water Wheels wheelchair was delivered for use at Eichler's Cove.
- The Fruit Trail Awakening is set for the weekend of May 4th and 5th.
- T-ball sign-ups has a record breaking number of 72 children.

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

None.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks: (See attachment #3)

- Spring cleanup is all done. The fields are still soaked, but they are hoping to have them all opened by this Thursday or Friday (April 11th and 12th).
- Installation at Eichler's Cove is going very smoothly. ADA compliance will be all set for the 2019 Season. They are now just waiting for warmer weather conditions to finish up.
- They repurposed an old Fairfield Hills gate and installed it at Lake Lillinonah.

Commissioners out and about:

Commissioner Clinton DePaolo was at the children's Egg Hunt on Saturday morning, April 5th. He said it was a huge hit, and all the children were having a blast.

Motion:

Commissioner Patrick Barczak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Rance Thompson, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room located at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT.

Submitted by,

Kate Geerer Sclafani, clerk

Budget Estimate

Newtown Tennis Courts
Newtown, CT
April 5, 2019
Carl Samuelson

Budget Estimate – Materials and Installation

Musco's Light-Structure™ System as described below and delivered to the job site:

(5) Tennis Courts (LED Light Source): **\$170,000 plus/minus 10%**

Equipment Description

Light-Structure™ in 5 Easy Pieces™

- Pre-Cast concrete bases
- Galvanized steel poles
- Remote electrical component enclosures
- Pole length wire harnesses
- Factory-aimed and assembled LED luminaries

Benefits of Light-Structure™ System with TLC for LED™

- Reduction of energy and maintenance costs by 50% to 85% over typical 1500w HID equipment
- Reduction of spill light and glare by 50% or more
- Guaranteed light level
- An unmatched warranty for up to 25 years that includes onsite maintenance
- Includes our Control-Link® System for remote on/off control and performance monitoring with 24/7 customer support

Notes

- Requires confirmation of court dimensions, pole locations and a Musco lighting design prior to providing quote(s)
- Based upon projects similar in scope, and is intended for preliminary planning purposes only
- Pricing is based on April 2019 pricing and is subject to change
- Getting electrical power to the site, coordination with the utility and any power company fees are the responsibility of the owner
- Assumes standard soil conditions – rock, bottomless, wet or unsuitable soil may require additional engineering, special installation methods and additional cost
- Assumes building code and wind speed – 2015 IBC and 120 mph wind speed

Thank you for considering Musco for your sports lighting needs. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

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"No Winter lasts forever and no spring skips its turn!" Hal Borland

Although it may appear that we are heading into the most winter-like stretch of the 2018-19 winter season, we've already begun to look forward with great anticipation to spring 2019.

We are excited about the many recreational opportunities previewed in our spring and summer brochure which surely includes something for everyone. Register early and often, and give your family something to look forward to other than the warm weather!

We are also looking forward to our anticipated office relocation, planned for sometime during the summer. After years of planning, we will be moving into a new space at the new Community Center located on the Fairfield Hills campus. We look forward to being part of the FFH community and near the epicenter of all the exciting new changes happening there. We're already working more intimately with Community Center and Senior Center staff and expect the new synergy amongst the departments will only lead to a wider variety of recreational and social opportunities for Newtowners of all ages.

Speaking of opportunities, we're also planning and looking for approval for construction of four new pickle ball courts on the FFH campus, nestled in an area between the baseball fields and the new Community center. For those of you not yet familiar with pickle ball, it is the fast growing sport in the United States, having become the outdoor sport of choice for many seniors while also catching on with younger adults and plain old youngsters. Imagine a combination of tennis, ping-pong and badminton, providing great fun and great exercise with less stress on joints. It's fun, social, competitive and athletic. If you're having trouble visualizing the game, find time to visit the court at Treadwell Park or the indoor courts located in the gymnasiums at Sandy Hook School and Edmond Town Hall. Or call us at (203) 270-4340 for information on scheduled times. You'll quickly understand the attraction.

For those of you interested in other field sports, we are pleased to report that we will be replacing the carpet at the Tilson Artificial Turf field located behind the Treadwell Park pool this spring. Seldom does a large capital project like this one get financed entirely through self-funding, this \$500,000 project is an exception. We take great pride in our partnership with members of Newtown's recreational sport organizations whom both benefit and contribute to the surcharge fund, which finances this and other capital improvements to recreational facilities without bonding or additional spending placed on taxpayers.

And there's more...

We're currently improving access to Eichler's Cove Beach and Marina, making access to both the beach and boat slips ADA accessible beginning with the 2019 season. Permanent bathroom facilities are also on the horizon here.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Rooster Run, scheduled for June 15th, 2019. We anticipate some exciting new additions to this event. Proceeds from this event are donated to the Newtown Scholarship Association. All persons aged 60 or older run for free, thanks to a generous donation from a Newtown resident. So plan to run, jog, walk, skip, or roll at the 45th annual Rooster Run. You'll have a great time, get a new Tee Shirt, and contribute to scholarship awards for Newtown students.

Spring – A lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be! So look beyond winter, and make plans for spring 2019 and some new exciting changes!

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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: April, 2019

RE: Monthly park update and field report

Seasonal spring tasks are the focus of our efforts recently. Winter clean up, spring prep, and fields have been our main focus.

Dickinson Park: Spring clean-up has begun here. We have sanitized the well for state testing, assembled the bathrooms from a winterized state and completed the brush work along fences. Some more clean up remains and bathrooms will open in the next 7-10 days once water testing is complete. The tennis courts are also open.

Newtown Middle School: No new news here.

Orchard Hill: The new gate is scheduled to be installed in the next few weeks here.

Lake Lillinonah: A repurposed gate has been installed here after the last one was damaged in a storm. The dock is also in for early season fisherman.

Glander Fields: Spring field prep has begun. Material has been applied to help dry out the clay surfaces and things are moving towards opening. Spring fertilizer has been applied.

Liberty Fields: Spring field prep has begun. Material has been applied to help dry out the clay surfaces and things are moving towards opening. Spring fertilizer has been applied.

Oakview: Spring fertilizer has been applied.

Tilson Field: This field has been open for a couple of weeks. The time to replace this field is certainly here as we are losing lines and seams on a regular basis.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: Treadwell field has been open for the past three weeks and was cleaned prior to opening. Spring field prep has begun on the softball field. Material has been applied to help dry out the clay surfaces and things are moving towards opening. Spring fertilizer has been applied.

Walnut Tree: Spring field prep has begun. Material has been applied to help dry out the clay surfaces and things are moving towards opening. Spring fertilizer has been applied.

Fairfield Hills: Spring clean-up has begun. The contractor was on site for a few hours last week and is scheduled to be here tomorrow as well.

NHS Fields: These fields have been open for NHS sports for a few weeks. Blue and Gold was cleaned and groomed. Spring fertility has been completed on the natural surfaces.

Dog Park: Things are quiet here right now; we will begin repairing the broken water lines once fields are open.

Treadwell Park: Things are quiet here now. Backstop repair is scheduled to begin as soon as the ground is firm enough to get equipment out there.

Eichlers Cove Marina: ADA ramp installation is going well. The footings are all formed and rebar is in place. We will get concrete poured in another week or so when the threat of freezing temperatures at night is gone.

Sandy Hook School: Spring field prep has begun. Material has been applied to help dry out the clay surfaces and things are moving towards opening. Spring fertilizer has been applied.

Staff:

- 152 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1760 potential work hours in the past month. This represents an 8.5% loss in workforce.