

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 an in-person meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 with an opportunity for phone – in public participation, in the multipurpose room of the Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clinton DePaolo at 6:02pm

Present: Clinton DePaolo, Vincent Yanni, Warren Spencer

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, RoseAnn Reggiano, Carl Samuelson

Absent: Aaron Britton, Jim Parker, David Payne, Rance Thompson

Public: Ms. Alexa Larson- Gardening Volunteer

Girl Scout Troop 50334

Ms. Katherine Geerer- Member of Newtown Parks and Recreation Staff

Public Participation:

- Ms. Alexa Larson is still having communication issues with the Victory Garden committee and requested that Parks and Recreation help so she can know when Victory Garden meetings are and where they are held. Ms. Larson also suggested that mini golf equine programming and that it would be a great contribution to Newtown activities.
- The Girl Scout troop 50334 presented their Bronze Award project idea. They would like to put a box at the dog park and fill it with tennis balls and tennis ball throwers. (*Attachments #1, #2, & #3 for more information*). Their deadline would be September 30, 2021. Everyone loved the idea and were in favor. Mr. Carl Samuelson suggested 2 little boxes rather than 1 big one and to attach it on or against the fence. Ms. RoseAnn Reggiano suggested bolting it down to make it more secure. The troop also suggested putting their troop number on it so people know where it came from.
- Ms. Kate Geerer came to push for more publicity for the ‘*Stay Out of the Kitchen Pickleball Social*’ event next Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

Acceptance of Minutes: *Could not be done due to lack of quorum.*

Old Business:

- *Pickleball Social:* Per suggestion of the public, will be looking to publicize it more. Need a minimum of 40 attendees and currently have 34 signed up as of right now. Looking to contact The Bee and possibly The Patch to publish it in there.

- *Tilson Field Repair:* Mr. Carl Samuelson reported that we will be waiting until Field Turf is here in June to replace the turf at the high school to replace the corner at Tilson to save money for their transportation costs. It will be about \$2,500 to replace the section of turf. The depression is thought to be caused by either a drain piping issue or that it is from the stockpile being stored there last time Field Turf was here. However the spot is not getting worse.
- *Bike Playground Update:* Ms. Amy Mangold reported that the bicycle playground planning is coming along great and she is continuing to push for it. Mr. Samuelson laid out where the location and parking plan was and was able to plan for maximum usage of the space. Ms. Mangold has a pre hearing with planning and zoning this Thursday, May 14th to be able to be on the agenda for next month's meeting on June 5th.
- *Team Sideline:* Mr. Samuelson reported that the software was purchased after it was approved by the commission at last month's meeting. He said it should be up and running at full capacity by the end of next week. He also mentioned that links to sports group's websites may be added to the calendar site.

New Business:

- *Bronze Award Troop 50334:* The Girl Scout troop 50334 presented their Bronze Award project idea. They would like to put a box at the dog park and fill it with tennis balls and tennis ball throwers. (*Attachments 1, 2, & 3 for more information*). Their deadline would be September 30, 2021. Everyone loved the idea and were in favor. Mr. Carl Samuelson suggested 2 little boxes rather than 1 big one and to attach it on or against the fence. Ms. RoseAnn Reggiano suggested bolting it down to make it more secure. The troop also suggested putting their troop number on it so people know where it came from.
- *Beach Rake:* Mr. Carl Samuelson reported that the Parks and Recreation has never had a beach rake and suggested that buying one would improve water quality over the summer as well as helping with how much sand needs to be replaced. He spoke about 2 different machines from the same company, H. Barber and Sons. One of the machines is a walk behind sifter that collects surface sand of about 1 inch deep and would take about 3-4 hours to do the beach. The walk behind machine would cost \$18,000. The other machine is an attachment to a tractor and goes as much as 6 inches deep and would only take about 1 hour to do the beach. The tractor attachment would cost \$25,000. Both machines pick up larger objects such as rocks and goose droppings and leave the sand behind, but the attachment would be more thorough. The machine should last and be functional to the department for about 25 years. The purchase would come out of the Eichler's Cove fund.
- *Eichler's Cove Visit:* The Commission decided to meet at Eichler's Cove to do a site visit before next month's meeting, June 8th, 2021 at 5:00pm.

Correspondence:

- Families United in Newtown sent a thank you note to Parks and Recreation for supporting their April 25th movie fundraiser. (*Attachment #5*).
- Ms. Amy Mangold received an email regarding minutes from 2020 about a potential disc golf course in Newtown and telling how it would be a great idea. (*Attachment #6*).

- Parks and Recreation received an email from a grandmother who has been signing her granddaughters up for camp for several years and wanted to thank everyone for all their help and friendliness every year (*Attachment #7*).

Chairman's Report:

Clinton DePaolo, Chairman Newtown Parks and Recreation

Mr. Clinton DePaolo reported that the budget passed for the year and that he is hoping to make improvements at locations that really need it.

Directors Report

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Amy Mangold reported that the office has been getting busier as summer gets closer
- There is currently an open full time secretary position in the office that Ms. Mangold is hoping to fill soon.
- The docks at Eichler's Cove Marina have been put in and the cove opening went smoothly.
- Donna Culbert with the health department was a great help working with sports groups on their COVID plans.
- Many of the schools are asking to use the park facilities this spring, especially Dickinson Park. Junior prom will be held at Dickinson this year on May 21st, additionally the sports banquet and the accepted college athlete bound lunch will be held at Treadwell Park.
- For Newtown Day on October 2nd, Parks and Recreation will be having a food truck event and are hoping to have something to offer to support all Newtown businesses and organizations.
- The Rooster Run has received sponsorship from the Prevention Council through the strengthening communities grant and there will be a promotion to entice middle school and high school students to run in the race.
- There will be invasive removal of knotweed this Saturday along with planting pollinator plants at the fruit trail in partnership with the rotary club.
- The skate park project is coming along, the wording for the memorial was finalized and Ms. Mangold has another meeting with the family to talk more about the features and plans.
- Ms. Mangold completed the Accelerate CT Summer Program Expansion Grant for \$25,000 to be able to get more programs with the day camp over the summer and to hopefully be able to sponsor some Danbury kids to come here for camp this year (*Attachment #8*).
- Looking to do a partnership with the booth library to help kids improve their skills in a fun and educational way.
- Looking into a new reservation system for the pool and beach this summer called *Motion Vibe* and are hoping to have that soon.
- People are excited for summer!! The public is signing up for programs it things are starting to feel normal again.

Assistant Director's Reports:

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation

- Newtown Day, Ms. RoseAnn Reggiano is looking to focus on getting 6-12 food trucks, half food and half more dessert oriented.
- Rooster Run sent out a sponsorship package and have 4 people returning so far. People are donating and currently have 60 runners signed up, hoping to have 300.
- The wood workshop went great with Tim Snider, attendees learned a lot and there were a variety of signups- moms and daughters, fathers and sons, total of 9 people.
- Getting ready for summer camp and very excited to have Teen Adventure camp back this year.
- Very excited to report that Newtown Parks and Recreation will be working with Stewart Carnival this year and will be running the carnival at Fairfield Hills at the end of June, the location is to be determined.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

- *See attachment #9 and #10*

Commissioners out and about: *Nothing to report*

Motions: *No motions could be made due to lack of quorum.*

Adjournment of Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the multi-purpose room located at 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT unless changed to virtual due to COVID restrictions.

Submitted by,

Victoria Weimann, Clerk

Girl Scout Troop 50334's Bronze Award Project



Presented by:

Cameron, Edie, Jocelyn, Lia and Madison

What is the Bronze Award?

The **Bronze Award** is the highest honor a junior can achieve. The bronze award is a community project that has to be sustainable and make a large impact on the community. The Bronze Award is a group project where we all work together to fix or add to something in the community! We all learn about different things and we work very hard.

Why we want to do this idea

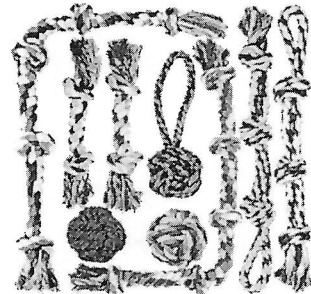
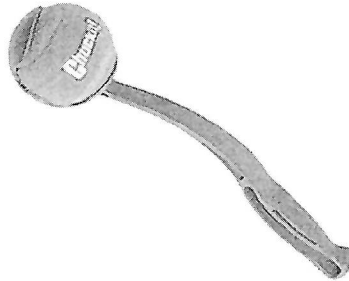
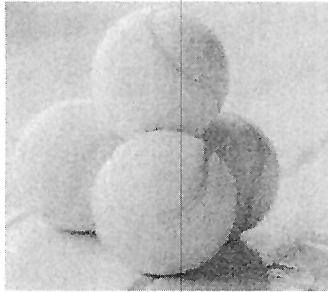
We really want to do this idea because our troop are huge animal lovers, we love to help animals in need especially. In the past we have done many activities having to do with animals, once we slept in a aquartim for a night and got to learn about many under the sea creatures, we also have made blankets for dogs in shelters. We once had a camp out and had a presenter that shared different kinds of animals, our troop loved to hold the animals and were very gentle. When we were brainstorming ideas for the bronze award most of the ideas had something to do with animals, because we wanted to help animals in the committee. We are very excited for this idea, hope you are too.

Examples of what it could look like



What we would like to put in it

In the dog library we would put balls and other dog toys. We would most likely not put in sticks the reason for that is because when the people that come to mow the lawn would have to pick up the sticks that the dogs would play with. We also might put dog ball throwers out for people if they wanted to pick up and throw the balls easier.



What it would say

On the dog toy library itself we would like it to say dogbrary! We like this because it means dog library and it is a library of toys for our 4 legged friends. We were also thinking that it could say fetch one leave one since many dogs love playing fetch. I also have a dog toy basket at my house that says life is better with a dog so we could also put that on the "dogbrary" because it is a cute, short, and simple quote! Furthermore, we were thinking that we would put our troop number and bronze award somewhere. For example, one of the front corners. Another thing it would or could say is take one leave. I am thinking this because it is a take one leave one and it will tell people to do so. Last but certainly not least, we would like to explain what the bronze award is on the box since we are doing this as our bronze award project. Personally I was thinking it would be like 3-4 sentences but I'm not sure. I hope you like these ideas!

Questions for Parks and Rec

We would like to do this idea, but we have a few questions. First off when we do this how big or small does it have to be? Should it be on the ground or have a beam that puts it in the air? Could and should it have words on it? Also we need to know stuff like... Where would we put it? Which park would we put it in? We still need to know how we could make it weather resistant, like a roof for it or no coverage at all. But the most important one is what would the standards be for making it COVID friendly? You see we have a lot of concerns and are wondering how to make it and we would like it if you could answer some or all of these questions.

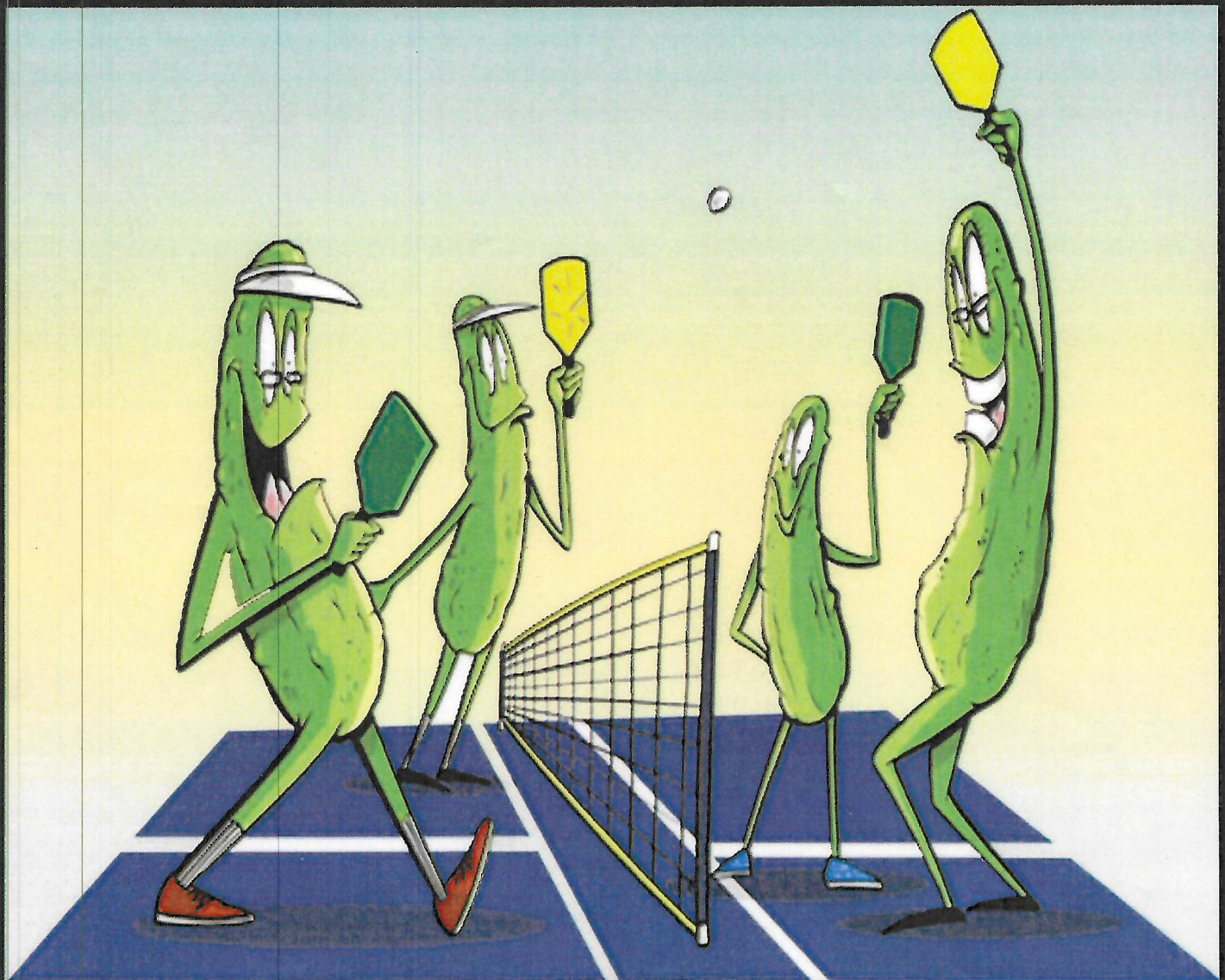
SPONSORED BY NEWTOWN PARKS & RECREATION

STAY OUT OF THE KITCHEN

05.19.2021

6-8:30PM

PICKLEBALL SOCIAL



ACTIVITY #: 314106-A

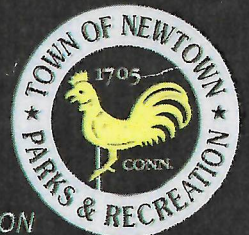
AGE: 21+

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SANDY HOOK, CT 06482

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from
Families United
in Newtown

Dear Amy and Newtown Parks and Recreation,

Thank you so much for supporting our "Lion King" movie fundraiser on April 25th and the "Light it up Blue" Campaign during the month of April. We so appreciate your alliance with our cause and your support of giving us a beautiful facility to host our events. We exceeded our goal at our fundraiser of collecting \$1,000 for autism brain research and might even make it to \$2,000 that will be donated to Dr. Margaret Bauman at our Benefit Concert on June 6th Sunday 4 pm at the Dickinson Park (thanks to you!). Please mark your calendar and attend and if possible!

Many thanks again. You are amazing!!!!

Jinda

Re: [Newtown CT] Disc Golf (Sent by Joseph a Carcare, [redacted]@gmail.com)

1 message

Joe [redacted]@gmail.com

Tue, May 4, 2021 at 11:46 AM

To: Amy Mangold <amy.mangold@newtown-ct.gov>

Absolutely I am a Danbury resident I've been playing probably for the last year it would be great for one of our towns to have this for the community I don't have a lot to offer but I have time in a big mouth so if you need help or anything fundraising please feel free to let me know!

Hello,

just following up on some meeting minutes from 2020 about a potential disc golf course in Newtown. this would be a great idea there are none around with in 40 minutes. it is out doors and cost next to nothing for families to play.

thank you
Joe

--

Amy E. W. Mangold
Director Newtown Parks and Recreation
Office (203) 270-4342
FAX (203) 270-4333

Staff at Newtown Park & Rec,

As you know, my granddaughters come to stay with me two weeks every summer and I have been enrolling them in various camps in Newtown for several years which they love and enjoy so much. I also really appreciate that your brochure is published early in the year because it helps with planning. I just wanted to say thank you for all of your always friendly faces and continuing to go out of your way to be so helpful, efficient and accommodating!

Sue Rieger

I. Introduction

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) in March, Connecticut has an unprecedented opportunity to improve learning and support for all students. The federal stimulus package will help Connecticut address unfinished teaching and learning and meet students' social, emotional and mental health needs as we move ahead and begin to advance from the disruption of the past year. Now more than ever, it is critical that communities come together to plan for impactful out-of-school time learning and enrichment opportunities.

An important asset in that recovery is the federal funding provided in Public Law 117-2, American Rescue Plan of 2021 under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER). ARP ESSER requires states to reserve at least 1% of the state set aside for summer learning and enrichment programs. In order to utilize Connecticut's set aside, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) in partnership with the six Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs) is releasing the **AccelerateCT Summer Program Expansion Grant** application for Summer 2021 programming.

The application is designed to expand opportunities for children to participate in high quality summer programming including summer camp, theme based enrichment programming, and programs combining academic and enrichment activities. We encourage applicants to take a communitywide approach in developing their application and partner with other stakeholders in their communities or regions to strengthen the opportunities available to children and youth.

Accordingly, the funding distributed as a result of this **AccelerateCT Summer Program Expansion Grant** may be used for expanding existing programs or creating new programs to serve students who would otherwise not have access to summer camp or programs. Programs should respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care).

Funding will be provided for programming and activities during the summer of 2021 only. The grant period begins on June 1, 2021 and ends on September 3, 2021. Applicants can apply for grants up to \$25,000 per program site. Applicants may submit up to three separate applications for different sites. A maximum of one grant will be awarded per site/location, with a maximum of three per organization. Applicants should only apply for the amount that they are certain they will be able to spend efficiently during the grant period.

The number of grants awarded will depend on the number of applicants, the quality of the proposals, and the amount of funds available. Awards will be made in all six RESC regions.

TOWN HALL SOUTH
3 MAIN STREET
NEWTOWN, CT 06470
TEL. (203) 270-4340
FAX (203) 270-4333



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: May 11, 2021

RE: Monthly park update and field report

Spring youth and academic sports are keeping us busy as we install docks and ready other seasonal facilities. We hung a 50th anniversary banner at the new PD and have begun mulching the beds here.

The Team Sideline software has been bought and is in use. Victoria has things looking great. We plan on having a link on our website and to go live as early as next week.

Dickinson Park: All facilities here are open for the season. A few small items such as door lock repairs and mulching around the playground remain. All of the graffiti has been painted over or cleaned. A youth was caught by the police for vandalizing the bathrooms here. Missing basketball nets have been replaced here

Newtown Middle School: We are planning to clean out the batting cage here but otherwise all spring fertility and field prep has been completed. Regular grooming, painting and mowing here has begun for the season.

Orchard Hill: No new news here.

Lake Lillinonah: We have completed the landscaping where the drainage was installed and have started renovations to the buffer garden here that was in dire need of cleaning out.

Oakview: No new news here.

Tilson Field: A girls lax field and side by side fields were added here for youth lacrosse.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: The scoreboard was repaired by us, using approved surcharge funds. The youth teams have already bought the controllers they will need.

Glander Fields: These fields are in regular use. Dugout installation will begin here in the next week or so

Liberty Fields: These fields are open and on the regular grooming, mowing and painting schedule.

Walnut Tree: No new news here. This field is open and on our regular grooming, mowing and painting schedule.

Fairfield Hills: We set up and broke down for the “Day of Prayer” event Pickleball nets were reinstalled following the event. A few dead trees were removed by Lewis tree service as part of their in house training program. Knotweed mowing as well as a perimeter cut has been completed to help keep invasive plants out.

NHS Fields: The scoreboard was completed here including installing electrical conduit. All fields here are on our regular maintenance schedule.

Sandy Hook School: These fields are open and on the regular grooming, mowing and painting schedule.

Hawley School Fields: These fields are open and on the regular grooming, mowing and painting schedule.

Eichlers Cove Marina: All of the docks, including the repaired sections have been installed for the season. We are working on beach prep and mulching here before Memorial Day.

Dog Park: A leaking dog fountain was repaired. The water is on for the season here with 3 of the 4 features on for the season.

Treadwell Park: As mentioned earlier the scoreboard here has been repaired. The park has been mulched and the conduit and light pole post for the pool has been completed. Missing basketball nets have been replaced here. The main pool is running for the season and looking good. We will fill and fire up the kiddie pool in the next week or so.

Pole Bridge Preserve: No new news here

Watertown Field: These fields are open and on the regular grooming, mowing and painting schedule.

Staff:

- 240 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1760 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 13.5% loss in workforce.