

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 special in-person meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, with an opportunity for phone – in public participation, at the Newtown Senior Center, 8 Simpson St, Newtown, CT 06470

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clinton DePaolo at 6:00 pm

**Present:** Clinton DePaolo, Jim Parker, Vincent Yanni, Aaron Britton, Warren Spencer

**Staff Present:** Amy Mangold, RoseAnn Reggiano

**Absent:** Rance Thompson, David Payne, Carl Samuelson

**Public:** Ms. Alexa Larson

Mr. Patrick McCleary, Newtown Babe Ruth Softball

**Public Participation:**

- Ms. Alexa Larson shared she will be meeting with senior center Natalie Jackson to work on seedlings. Ms. Larson also shared she is looking forward to pickleball being available again outside.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2022 meeting. Mr. Warren Spencer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**Old Business:**

- *Newtown Parks and Recreation Budget:* Mr. Clinton DePaolo shared that he and Ms. Amy Mangold and Mr. Carl Samuelson went before the Board of Finance to explain items in the budget and answer questions about how items in the budget will be handled. Mr. DePaolo shared that they are trying to make improvements when and where they can. Mr. Warren Spencer asked when it was decided when it was approved. Ms. Mangold explained that the first selectman, Mr. Daniel Rosenthal, said it has to go through the Legislative Council before anything is decided.
- *The Field Use Manual:* No updates
- *Tilson Light Controller Upgrade:* No updates.

**New Business:**

- *Men's Softball; Past Due Payment:* Ms. Amy Mangold shared a letter from the former league coordinator of the Sunday Men's Softball sharing that he will be stepping down

from his position in the league and passing the position to two new individuals. He also explained that he would like to pay off their balance owed from the 2020 and 2021 season in 3 payments of \$2,735 separately from the field use they will be utilizing for the 2022 season. He asked if the league could start fresh with the new coordinators who will be running the league. Mr. Jim Parker asked if it was the league or the individual that owed the money. Ms. Mangold explained it is the individual that owes the money. Mr. Aaron Britton shared he does not agree with the idea of separating the old with the new for payments. Mr. Vincent Yanni asked what the guarantee is that the former balance will be paid in addition to the new balance for this season based on past experience with the individual. Mr. Yanni suggested the new league leaders should come to the next meeting to discuss the topic more with the commission. Ms. RoseAnn Reggiano recommended the new league coordinators pay in advance for either the season or a month at a time. Mr. Clinton DePaolo proposed a special meeting to discuss it further and be able to focus on it. Mr. Warren Spencer asked if the league plays under any type of charter or affiliation? Ms. Mangold responded that it is an independent group. It was decided to find a date for a special meeting so everyone can be present in deciding how to move forward.

- *Girls Softball:* Mr. Warren Spencer and Mr. Carl Samuelson met with Mr. Patrick McCleary to outline what they thought needed to happen for both Newtown Babe Ruth Softball and Newtown Thunder Softball to be able to move forward. Mr. Spencer shared that a lot of the issues that were being had were resolved. Parents want Newtown Softball to be run as transparently as possible. Mr. Patrick McCleary shared everything runs on a yearly basis September 1st through August 31st. It was decided to implement the changes come September. Both leagues will be charged as surcharge groups until then. In the fall Newtown Thunder will be charged hourly if their teams do not meet the surcharge requirements. The Newtown Babe Ruth softball decided that to become a voting member you must attend at least 3 of the 5 meetings scheduled until September. Elections will be in August which is a chance for new members to join the board. After September 2022 you must attend 7 of the 12 meetings to be a voting member. See *attachments #1 and #2* for further details.
  - Mr. Warren Spencer made a motion to waive the hourly fee from fall 2021 and spring 2022 to surcharge for the Newtown Babe Ruth Softball and Thunder Softball groups. Mr. Vincent Yanni seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion passed.
- *Dog Park Park Permit:* Ms. Roseann Reggiano shared that she has had many non-residents asking about parking permits, many of the people who are utilizing the dog park do not agree with the \$150 fee to use only one park. Ms. Reggiano asked if the dog park can have separate permits for a different fee. Mr. Clinton DePaolo asked if that would make more work for the office staff. Ms. Reggiano said it would not because it is just like selling regular permits, and because it is secluded it would be a better option for people who ONLY want to use the dog park. Mr. DePaolo said it could be a good idea but does open doors for people wanting specific passes for specific parks down the road. Ms. Amy Mangold asked how it might affect residents. Mr. DePaolo suggested it would create an avenue for people who do want to do the right thing and only use the dog park. It was pointed out that dogs are only allowed at 2 parks, Orchard Hill and the Dog Park.

Mr. Vincent Yanni asked how it would be enforced. Ms. Mangold explained there are people sitting and monitoring permits at the parks through a student program with the high school. Mr. Aaron Britton asked if there were ways to entice dog park goers to go to other parks. Ms. Reggiano explained that dog people typically travel with their pets and would be able to go to other parks because dogs aren't allowed anywhere else. Mr. Britton asked if the non-resident permit cost was lowered would more people get it. Ms. Reggiano said maybe because lots of people are taken aback by the \$150 fee and shared that other towns do not have permits to be able to utilize their dog parks. Mr. DePaolo asked for data on how many non-resident passes were purchased last year and how much a dog park permit might cost. Ms. Reggiano responded that it would have to be discussed further.

### **Correspondence:**

- Ms. Amy Mangold shared that The Governor's Horse Guard reached out to see if Parks and Rec would like to take their compost again this year for the victory garden. Ms. Mangold responded that it would be a great idea. (*Attachment #3*)
- Ms. Mangold also shared a correspondence with a resident that was interested in the disc golf course being put in. (*Attachment #4*)

### **Chairman's Report:**

Mr. Clinton DePaolo, Chairman Newtown Parks and Recreation

- *None*

### **Directors Report**

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Amy Mangold shared that she will be having a meeting with the designers of the disc golf course, Sherry and Sven of Goldie Disc Gold from Trumbull, CT, on March 22.
- The American Ramp Company designing the bicycle playground are working on the plans for the P&Z meeting.
- Upgrades for RecTrac are moving forward and being implemented. The company, Cloud, has great tech support and gets back to issues quickly. Automatic updates will happen now with the cloud and the park and recreation team won't have to wait on updates. The transition will happen on March 22, 2022.
- There will be a zoom meeting with Union Carbide next week to tell the retirees what Newtown Parks and Recreation has to offer.
- The groundbreaking for the adaptive playground at Dickinson will be on March 19th at 10:30am with The Lions Club.
- The Spring Reawakening will happen on April 30th through May 1st from 10am to 5pm. (*Attachment #5*)

### **Assistant Director's Reports:**

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation

- Ms. Roseann Reggiano reported that the party hearty event went great and there was a good turn out. She hopes to have another event like it for the spring.
- The Snow Much Fun event had about 120 people attend, and raised \$359. People loved it and can't wait for next year.
- Ms. Reggiano also shared that she is working on finishing up trips and special events for day camp this summer.
- Working on setting up interviews for counselors, she will be needing 15-20 between Dickinson and Treadwell.
- Wardens for Eichler's Cove have been hired and Ms. Reggiano is working on a schedule for them and hopes to have a meeting with them before they open on May 5th.
- Planning to meet with the Assistant Waterfront Director to go over lifeguards for the season. Hoping to have 3 head staff and senior guards to fill in when needed. There have been 27 lifeguard applicants so far and will be reaching out to former guards.
- The brochure is online and registration is open. People are already registering for day camp, so far there are 93 campers registered.
- Rooster run on June 18th already has 9 people registered.
- There are new programs in this brochure such as:
  - E-Sports
  - Hula Hooping
  - Adult Skateboarding
- Ms. Reggiano shared that she would like to look into getting the Teen Center fixed up so it can be rented out and utilized more. Ms. Reggiano also shared that there should be money in the teen center budget.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks

- *Attachments #6 and #7*

**Commissioners out and about:**

- *None*

**Motions:**

- Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2022 meeting. Mr. Warren Spencer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- Mr. Warren Spencer made a motion to waive the hourly fee from fall 2021 and spring 2022 to surcharge for the Newtown Babe Ruth Softball and Thunder Softball groups. Mr. Vincent Yanni seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion passed.

**Adjournment of Meeting:** Mr. Vincent Yanni made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Aaron Britton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022 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*



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

#### Youth Softball Spring 2022

1. Both youth softball organizations (Newtown Babe Ruth Softball, Newtown Thunder) operate status quo for spring season.
2. Newtown Babe Ruth Softball schedules its use on Liberty 1,2 and Dickinson Softball for spring season. Newtown Thunder schedules use at Newtown High School Softball and Newtown Middle School Softball fields.
3. Reed Softball, Treadwell Softball and Fairfield Hills softball will be scheduled as needed.
4. Hourly pay to play fees from the fall of 2021 and spring of 2022 shall be waived, however regular surcharge fees apply, including back payments from the fall.
5. Individuals who wish to vote, or be considered for positions on the future organizations Board of Directors, must attend 3 of the next 5 meetings.
6. All other Field Administration rules apply

#### Youth Softball Fall 2022 (Season Starting Sept 1, 2022)

1. Parks and Recreation shall recognize one (1) ESTABLISHED, non-profit (501c-3) youth recreational organization per sport, for its unique purpose. No other organizations shall qualify for the same unique purpose under surcharge status for the use of Newtown fields. This group shall be referred to as Newtown Youth Softball.
  - A. Must have a minimum of six (6), publicly advertised/posted board meetings per year, or more if required by charter.
  - B. Organization bylaws must be posted/linked on leagues website. Must include current board member structure, election rules and voting eligibility.
  - C. Current board members, including league email contacts must be listed on league website.
  - D. Link to national affiliation charter to be posted on league website.

- E. Annually submit organizations Treasurers Report or tax return information from the most recent fiscal year.
- F. Publicly post meeting minutes from board meetings, no more than 30 days from meeting.
- G. Primary Travel teams under the umbrella of this organization NOT meeting the 80% residency requirements shall pay the existing hourly usage fees for time scheduled on Newtown fields, stacking not permitted. Second teams in the same age group (B teams), shall operate under surcharge status if proof that all resident applicants were fielded. Submission of full tryout registration for A and B teams required.

Hi all,

wanted to let you know we will be holding our compost drive again every Saturday in April (except Easter weekend). You guys are more than welcome to a truck load whenever you want.  
Also wanted to see if you wanted to promote any events or anything gardening related to the people who show up? Last year we had a lot of gardening enthusiasts come through.  
The Horse Guard will have an information table and wanted to see if you guys were interested in either giving us information to hand out or setting up your own table - totally up to you, no pressure :)

Let us know and thank you,  
Marion

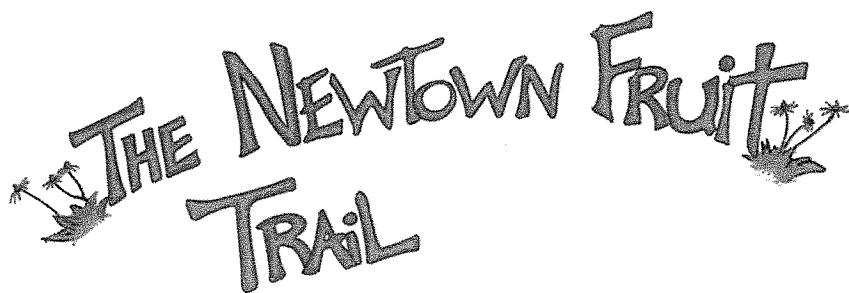
Amy E. W. Mangold  
Director Newtown Parks and Recreation  
Office (203) 270-4342  
FAX (203) 270-4333  
amy.mangold@newtown-ct.gov  
The benefits are Endless!!!



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Best  
Joe

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## REAWAKENING 2022

Join us the weekend of

April 30 – ~~March 1~~ May 1

From 10am – 5pm for the very first gardening of the season.

Newtown Parks and Recreation, along with Andrew Mangold, will be hosting a two-day-long workshop to wake up the Newtown Fruit Trail for 2022 after its long winter sleep. We'll be getting out very early this spring to kick off the first garden session of the year.

Gather together to evoke your own gardening appetite as we dig into the thawing trail.

Join us in community at the Fruit Trail to get our hands dirty and our hearts alight for all of the growing to come. We'll tidy up the gardens, assess the health of our plants and evaluate tasks for the year ahead. We'll be removing winter tree cages, planting new bulbs, shrubs and flowers, and learning about each of the different species assembled at the trail. This is a great opportunity to gather insight for your own projects, to remain involved at the trail and get a jump start on your gardens at home. Participants will get hands-on practice preparing gardens and tending to perennial plants to jump-start your own projects and help in all of your yards and gardens to come.

We'll continue to make a home for butterflies, bees and birds at the trail, growing plants that feed the land and the people as one. This is a chance to get your first taste of spring gardening, together in community! Join us as we celebrate fruits, flowers, trees and the joy of good work. Last year, the trail surprised us with many berries that brightened the length of the trail. This year, we can expect another new spectrum of color as our perennial plants grown into maturity. We can look forward to more berries this summer, and we may get to begin counting the number of bird, bee and butterfly species that are making a home at the Trail. This is for the good of all! Come one hour, one day, or join us for the entire weekend; whether you are a garden expert or an inspired beginner; there is a role for everyone at the trail.

**Bring masks, gloves and any garden tools you may want to use and share.**

*Don't miss out on helping with a project that has brought so much joy and growth to the Newtown Community.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT NEWTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION  
203-270-4340



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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 8, 2022

**RE:** Monthly park update and field report

Spring is in the air for sure. We have snow in the forecast however a few warm days have had many groups already calling asking if fields are open.

We have started spring cleaning in certain areas but for the most part things are too muddy and there is too much frost in the ground to work on much.

We have completed a spring cleaning at the shop and are working to get millings spread out back before the sewer line install.

**Dickinson Park:** The ice rink is still open however the forecast looks like we might only have about a week left before we will need to drain it.

We have started some tree work and excavation for the Lions playground upgrade, however this is very preliminary work that is more grading at this point.

The meadow between Dickinson and Liberty has been cut as well.

**Newtown Middle School:** No new news here.

**Orchard Hill:** No new news here.

**Lake Lillinonah:** No new news here.

**Oakview:** The exit 11 project has started which will impact Oakview some. We are losing a small amount of frontage but this will not affect the field or use of the facility.

**Tilson Field:** Perimeter brush work has been completed. The approved lighting control upgrade is on schedule and due to be shipped the week of 4/4/22

**Treadwell Soccer/Softball:** No new news.

**Glander Fields:** The dugout repair/replacement has started.

**Liberty Fields:** The meadow here has been cut for the season.

**Walnut Tree:** No new news here.

**Fairfield Hills:** We have started to clean up season plowing and storm damage. The tunnels have been pumped, as we often need to do.  
The meadows here have been cut as well.

**NHS Fields:** We have just started some spring cleaning here as spring sports will be using these fields in a couple of weeks.

**Sandy Hook School:** No new news here.

**Hawley School Fields:** No new news here.

**Eichlers Cove Marina:** No new news here.

**Dog Park:** No new news here.

**Treadwell Park:** Perimeter brush cutting has been completed.

**Pole Bridge Preserve:** No new news here

**Watertown Field:** Babe Ruth Baseball is funding the difference between our surcharge budget and what is needed to complete the backstop. Backstop construction should be in April if the vendor gets the required materials in time.

- 288 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1672 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 17.5% loss in workforce.