

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held an in-person meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 with an opportunity for public participation, at the Newtown Teen Center, 53 Church Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470.

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

Present: Clinton DePaolo, Warren Spencer, Aaron Britton, Vincent Yanni, Rance Thompson, David Payne

Staff Present: Rose Ann Reggiano, Carl Samuelson

Absent: Jim Parker, Amy Mangold (attending Parks and Recreation event)

Public: Megan Fremont, Darryl Newman, Anouk DePaolo

Public Participation:

Mr. Darryl Newman of 49A Flat Swamp Road, Newtown relayed that he was concerned about the lack of flexibility, the inability to reschedule games and the lack of communication on the part of Newtown Soccer Club. He expressed that Newtown Parks and Recreation has a transparent process when it comes to field closures, however, the Newtown Soccer Club runs with a lack of clarity. He inquired as to what was the purview of the commission, or suggestions, when it comes to Newtown Soccer Club. Chairman DePaolo relayed that the responsibility of the commission is to make sure that the Field Use Manual and the club bylaws are being observed. He advised that the commission has heard complaints that the Newtown Soccer Club is in violation of some of the field use provisions and some of the bylaw requirements and he had understood that the Club would have a representative present to address these concerns.

Mr. Carl Samuelson relayed that Mike Gajdosik, the scheduler for Newtown Soccer Club, communicates with the office frequently in his endeavors to reschedule games.

Mr. Newman shared that there are no public meetings and no formal elections. Commissioner Warren Spencer questioned whether each organization must hold public meetings and elections. Chairman DePaolo went on to say that the Newtown Soccer Club this year held the required six publicly advertised/posted meetings per year, but did not hold their Annual Meeting.

Ms. Meghan Fremont of 199 Walnut Tree Hill Road, Sandy Hook commented how quickly she received a thoughtful email response from Lauren Ravo (Secretary, Parks) when she inquired about rescheduling games. Ms. Ravo answered that this had to be handled directly with Newtown Soccer Club (in accordance with Field Use rules). Ms. Fremont went on to say that when she communicates with the club, she does not receive responses and that she has filed a formal complaint. Mr. Samuelson and Chairman DePaolo relayed that Parks and Recreation is here to make certain sports organizations are following their own by-laws and acting in accordance with the Field Use Manual. Ms. Fremont stated the children love the program and the families want to make/see improvements.

Ms. Anouk DePaolo of 39 Buttonball Drive, Sandy Hook stated that members do not know when the Newtown Soccer Club elections are held. She also relayed that the bylaws are not posted on the club's website. The field scheduling has been a major issue and the lack of information regarding the financials and elections has gone on for too long. She relayed that she is concerned that because of the dysfunction of the organization, they will lose good coaches and players.

Chairman DePaolo shared that Newtown Soccer Club officials were invited and it was his understanding that someone from the club would be present, however, this was not the case.

Chairman DePaolo relayed that he believes these issues can be resolved over the winter months and he will again check in with Newtown Soccer Club officials.

Commission Changes

Chairman DePaolo congratulated Commissioner Rance Thompson for winning a place on the Police Commission. Tonight was the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting he will attend. He thanked him for his years of service on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Jim Parker will also be leaving the Parks and Recreation Commission – December will be his last meeting.

In light of the two commission departures, a discussion ensued whether a new quorum should be determined so that voting can take place at upcoming commission meetings. A motion was made and accepted to adjust the quorum number to three members until such time that we have two additional appointed members.

Acceptance of Minutes:

September 12, 2023 Minutes were accepted.

October 10, 2023 Minutes were accepted.

Old Business:

Discussion and Possible Action

- **Capital Improvement Plan Update**

Mr. Carl Samuelson stated that the CIP would be passed forward to First Selectman Elect Jeff Capeci. Additional meetings will be held with the First Selectman.

- **Feasibility Update for Pickleball on P&R Campus Masterplan**

Mr. Samuelson relayed that we received the initial plan. The Fairfield Hills base map has been completed. A couple of corrections need to be made. The Pickleball Committee met with Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson today and asked for next steps. Once the corrected & approved map is presented to the commission, it will be brought to the Fairfield Hills Authority for an approval of location. Once a location is approved, the committee can begin fundraising efforts.

- **AED – Defibrillators at parks and fields**

Discussion on this subject picked up from the last meeting. The topic of the number of AED's needed was raised and whether it was feasible to fulfill, or whether teams should be required to bring their own while Newtown Parks and Recreation installs a smaller number at parks for the general public. Commissioner DePaolo suggested we check what other towns are doing. Additional research is needed and this discussion will continue.

New Business

Discussion and Possible Action

- **Parks and Recreation Annual Budget Timeline & Update**

Chairman DePaolo and Mr. Samuelson relayed that the complete draft will be presented at the December meeting.

- **Newtown Soccer Club**

Discussed earlier in the meeting, with public participation.

- **Summer Fees 2024**

Ms. Rose Ann Reggiano presented proposed 2024 fees. Discussion ensued and fees were agreed upon. Please see the attachment.

Correspondence:

No items were mentioned.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman DePaolo remarked on the highly successful SkateJam Fundraiser at the Dickinson Skate Park which took place on November 5. He also commented that the Scarecrow Contest was popular and resulted in an amazing display of scarecrows.

Director's Report:

On behalf of Ms. Amy Mangold, who is absent due to a Parks and Recreation event, Ms. Reggiano invited everyone to our 39th Annual Ram Pasture Tree Lighting on Friday, December 1 at 6:30pm.

Assistant Director, Recreation Report

Ms. Rose Ann Reggiano relayed that the Halloween Happening event went very well. We co-sponsored this event with the Newtown Community Center. 200-250 people attended. The 4th Annual Scarecrow Contest was a great success. Twenty-nine Scarecrows were entered. The Newtown Bee won Newtown Pride for the fourth year in a row. We had wonderful prizes donated for the winners and honorable mentions. Donations were made by Good Directions, Nick's Catering, Cover Two Bar & Restaurant, Art by Tom, Castle Hill Farm, Oak Barrel Wine & Spirits, UK Gourmet and BD Provisions. The \$700 in event proceeds go to the Pickleball Fund.

The Turkey Toss Basketball Free Throw Competition takes place this Friday, November 17. We have a nice group of volunteers who will assist. Funds raised will go towards the Pickleball Fund.

Ms. Reggiano shared that she is working on summer camp preparations and plans to have staff applications out by December 1 and they will also be available online. A \$35 fee will be charged for CIT's this year. She also met with Diane Sarna, Waterfront Director, to discuss some changes in lifeguard applications and certification processes. They also discussed hiring plans.

Assistant Director, Parks Report

Please see Mr. Carl Samuelson's report attached.

Commissioners Out & About:

No items were mentioned.

Motions:

- Commissioner Warren Spencer made a motion to accept the September 12, 2023 Minutes. Commissioner Aaron Britton seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion passed.
- Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to accept the October 10, 2023 Minutes. Commissioner Rance Thompson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion passed.
- Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to adjust the quorum number to three until such time that we have two new appointed members. Commissioner Aaron Britton seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion passed.
- Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to accept amended increases in summer camp fees. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion was passed.
- Commissioner David Payne made a motion to accept amended increases in pavilion rental fees. Commissioner Rance Thompson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion was passed.
- Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to accept Lake Lilinonah/Eicherl's Cove Launch fees as proposed. Commissioner Rance Thompson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion was passed.
- Commissioner Rance Thompson made a motion to accept amended increase in Dry Storage, Marina and Jet Ski fees. Commissioner David Payne seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion was passed.

Adjournment of Meeting:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Rance Thompson seconded the motion.

Chairman DePaolo declared the meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled is Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer Balbes, Clerk

Program	Site	LENGTH	Resident FEE 2024	Non-Resident FEE 2024	LENGTH	Resident FEE 2023	Non-Resident FEE 2023	Resident FEE 2022	Non-Resident FEE 2022	Resident FEE 2021	Non-Resident FEE 2021	Resident FEE 2020	Non-Resident FEE 2020
Day Camp	Treadwell	5 days	\$ 185.00	\$240.00	5 days	\$ 175.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 230.00	\$165.00	\$220.00	\$165.00	\$220.00
		4 days	\$150.00	\$194.00	4 days	\$140.00	\$184.00	\$140.00	\$184.00	\$132.00	\$176.00	\$132.00	\$176.00
		7 weeks	\$1,135.00	\$1,470.00	7 weeks	\$1,075.00	\$1,410.00	\$1,075.00	\$1,410.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,350.00
	Dickinson	5 days	\$ 185.00	\$240.00	5 day	\$ 175.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 230.00	\$165.00	\$220.00	\$165.00	\$220.00
		4 days	\$150.00	\$194.00	4 days	\$140.00	\$184.00	\$140.00	\$184.00	\$132.00	\$176.00	\$132.00	\$176.00
		7 weeks	\$1,135.00	\$1,470.00	7 weeks	\$1,075.00	\$1,410.00	\$1,075.00	\$1,410.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,350.00
Pool Beach Passes	Family of 4	14 weeks	\$225.00	\$450.00	14 weeks	\$225.00	\$450.00	\$225.00	\$450.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00
	Additional member	14 weeks	\$25.00	\$50.00	14 weeks	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$50.00
	Individual	14 weeks	\$100.00	\$175.00	14 weeks	\$100.00	\$175.00	\$100.00	\$175.00	\$75.00	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$150.00
	Day	14 weeks	\$15.00	\$30.00	14 weeks	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$30.00
	6 Visits	14 weeks	\$60.00	\$120.00	14 weeks	\$60.00	\$120.00	\$60.00	\$120.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$100.00
	Lost Pass	14 weeks	\$15.00	\$25.00	14 weeks	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Pavilion	Treadwell	1 day	\$300.00	\$500.00	1 day	\$250.00	\$450.00	\$250.00	\$450.00	\$200.00	\$375.00	\$200.00	\$375.00
	Dickinson	1 day	\$300.00	\$500.00	1 day	\$250.00	\$450.00	\$250.00	\$450.00	\$200.00	\$375.00	\$200.00	\$375.00
	Treadwell & Dickinson												
	Businesses	1 day	\$300.00	\$500.00	1 day	\$250.00	\$450.00	\$250.00	\$450.00	\$250.00	\$450.00	\$250.00	\$450.00
	Non Profit	1 day	\$300.00	\$300.00	1 day	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
	pool pass w Treadwell	per head	\$10.00	\$20.00	per head	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$8.00	\$13.00
	Band Shell	1 day	\$200.00	\$350.00	1 day	\$200.00	\$350.00	\$200.00	\$350.00	\$200.00	\$350.00	\$175.00	\$350.00
	Band Shell hourly after 4	per hour	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$45.00	\$90.00	\$45.00	\$90.00
	Band Shell Businesses	1 day	\$250.00	\$425.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$425.00	\$250.00	\$425.00	\$250.00	\$425.00	\$425.00	\$425.00
	Band Shell Business hourly after 4	per hour	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$110.00
	Fairfield Hills	1 day	\$75.00	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$150.00
	Fairfield Hills Businesses	1 day	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00

Program	Site	LENGTH	Resident FEE 2024	Non-Resident FEE 2024	LENGTH	Resident FEE 2023	Non-Resident FEE 2023	Resident FEE 2022	Non-Resident FEE 2022	Resident FEE 2021	Non-Resident FEE 2021	Resident FEE 2020	Non-Resident FEE 2020
	Picnic area & beach	1 day	\$200.00	\$400.00	1 day	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00
	Picnic area & beach up to 29 people	hourly per lifeguard (2)	\$15.00	\$15.00	hourly per lifeguard (2)	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
	Picnic area & beach over 30 or more people	hourly per lifeguard (3)	\$15.00	\$15.00	hourly per lifeguard (3)	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Launch Permit	Lake Lillimonah & Eichler's Cove	27 weeks	\$175.00	\$325.00	27 weeks	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$300.00
	Season	14 weeks	\$0.00	\$150.00	14 weeks	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
	Day	1 Day	\$0.00	\$20.00	1 Day	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
Teen Center		4 hours	\$200.00	\$400.00	4 hours	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00
High School Pool	family				29 weeks							\$75.00	\$150.00
	Single		N / A		29 weeks			N / A			N / A	\$30.00	\$60.00
	Senior				29 weeks							\$0.00	\$30.00
Dry Storage	Season			Early bird	27 weeks			NO EARLY BIRD		\$91.00	\$181.00	\$91.00	\$181.00
				After early bird									After early bird
Dry Storage	tax included	\$200.00	\$400.00			\$150.00	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
Marina	Eichler's Cove			19ft Under	27 weeks Early Bird			NO EARLY BIRD		\$1,250.00	\$1,550.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,550.00
				19ft Under	after Early bird								19ft Under
	tax included	\$1,750.00	\$2,150.00	19ft Under	early bird	\$1,550.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,450.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,450.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,450.00	\$1,750.00
				over 19 ft	early bird			NO EARLY BIRD		\$1,560.00	\$1,860.00	\$1,560.00	\$1,860.00
				over 19 ft	after early bird								over 19 ft
				over 19 ft									over 19 ft
Jet Ski													
Jet Ski	Eichler's Cove	\$2,060.00	\$2,460.00	over 19 ft		\$1,860.00	\$2,260.00	\$1,760.00	\$2,160.00	\$1,760.00	\$2,060.00	\$1,760.00	\$2,060.00
	tax included	\$895.00	\$1,110.00		27 weeks	\$795.00	\$1,010.00	\$745.00	\$960.00	\$745.00	\$960.00	\$745.00	\$960.00

NOTE 2024 FEES:	NOTE 2021 FEES:
Increase Treadwell and Dickinson Day Camp by \$10 per week and 7 weeks increase by \$60.	All fees remain the same due to covid
Increase Treadwell and Dickinson Pavilion by \$50 .	NOTES 2020 FEES:
Increase Lake Lillionah and Eichler's Cove Boat Launch by \$25.	Only increase is Dickinson Day Camp
Per commission Marina fees increased \$200 for slips, \$50 dry storage and \$100 jet ski	NOTES 2019 FEES:
NOTE 2023 FEES:	Only increase is for the boat launch and dry storage. Only sold 21 boat launch passes, should we increase? Dry storage we had a waitlist.
No increase except for dry storage increase \$50 for residents and \$100 for non residents, new fees \$150 residents and \$300 non residents. Slips at marina increased by \$100 and Jet skis increased by \$50.	Discount for multiple rentals? boat and kayak slip give a special price or rental of 2 dry storage or slips?
NOTE 2022 FEES:	Parking permit per slip rental even if same family - yes approved by commission 12/11/18
Increasing Day Camp fees by \$10 per week. Pool Beach Passes by \$25 for season and increase 6 visits by \$10.00.	Lockers needed for dry storage area.
Pavilion increase for Treadwell and Dickinson by \$50 per day resident and \$75 per day for non resident per commission on 11/9. Pool pass with Treadwell pavilion rental by \$2.00.	Slips increase 16 1/2 %. All fees include tax. Set fee for 19ft and under, then add \$300 to other fees - this is for early bird. After early bird add \$200 to each fee from set fee of 19 ft and under.
Eichler's Cove beach rental only increase is the lifeguard hourly rate to \$15.00.	Hold 3 ADA slips to June 1st, then open to anyone.
Marina, in 2021 the fees for 19 ft and under residents should of been \$1350.00 and non-residents should of been \$1650.00; Resident Over 19ft resident should of been \$1660.00 and non resident should of been \$1960.00. For in 2021 we decreased early bird discount by \$100.00. Commission on 11/9 eliminated Early Bird rates	
Therefore no increase for residents in 2022, the only increase is non residents by \$100.00, to be more consistent with other non resident fees.	

MAINTENANCE
OPERATIONS FACILITY
2 TRADES LANE
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: November 14, 2023

RE: Monthly park update and field report

The fall remained challenging, with unforgiving weekend rain, which made it very challenging to complete sports seasons. All sports are done with the exception of youth football which will be done this week.

Most of our season duties are complete with a few items remaining before the Holiday Tree Lighting.

Dickinson Park: The irrigation and bathrooms are winterized here. The softball field has been aerated and ongoing leaf clean up continues.

Newtown Middle School: Fall sports have ended here. We aerated the fields here and put the new goals together for Newtown Youth Soccer.

Orchard Hill: We have completed a first effort at leaves here. We will return again later this month for a final clean up.

Lake Lillinonah: The dock has been removed for the season. Driftwood along the water's edge has been cleaned up and the first round of leaf cleanup has been done.

Oakview: The field was aerated. We also repaired the ruts and wet areas from mowing and play when the field was saturated.

Tilson Field: No new news here except leaf removal. A final cleanup will be done later in the month as well.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: The softball field was lined for 7 v 7 soccer in the outfield. These fields are open for the final few fall sporting events. The irrigation has been winterized.

Glander Fields: The irrigation systems here have been winterized and ongoing leaf removal continues.

Liberty Fields: The irrigation systems have been winterized here and leaf clean up continues.

Walnut Tree: The first round of leaf cleanup has been completed here. The field was also aerated.

Fairfield Hills: Regular campus maintenance has been ongoing including leaf cleanup. The irrigation at the Victory Garden, Fruit Trail, The Green as well as High Meadow Field has been winterized.

NHS Fields: All of the back fields have been winterized. The fields have been aerated again and will be dormant fed later this month.

Sandy Hook School: The irrigation system here has been winterized and the leaves have been cleaned up for the first time. Dormant feeding and final leaf cleanup will take place later this month.

Hawley School Fields: Initial leaf cleanup has been completed and we are in the middle of relocating the field boxes at different fields for Newtown Youth Baseball.

Eichlers Cove Marina: The docks have all been removed and the beach and guard shed are all put away for the season as well.

Dog Park: The splash pad and water access has been winterized for the season.

Treadwell Park: We installed speed signs in the parking lot to slow down patrons. Some of the signage and barricades have been vandalized and stolen. The pools are shut down, covered and fully winterized. We have also winterized the bathrooms here for the season, although a few portable toilets remain.

Pole Bridge Preserve: No new news.

Watertown Field: The irrigation system has been winterized and leaf clean up continues.

- 544 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 2024 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 27 % loss in workforce.