

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, January 8, 2019 in the Explorers Room, 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks at 6:05 pm.

Present: Edward Marks, Linda Hess, Warren Spencer, Rance Thompson

Absent: Vincent Yanni, Jr., Clinton DePaolo and Patrick Barczak

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: Kendra Bobowick, The Newtown Bee

Public Participation:

None.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion:

Commissioner Warren Spencer made a motion to accept the Minutes from the December 11, 2018 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Linda Hess seconded the motion.

A typographical error was made within the last bullet point of Assistant Director RoseAnn Reggiano's report. It should have stated that the Winter Brochure was "hot OFF the press" and not "hot of the press".

All voted in favor of the amended minutes.

Old Business:

- *Budget:*

Chairman Ed Marks explained to the commissioners that he, Amy Mangold and Carl Samuelson met with First Selectman Dan Rosenthal and Finance Director Bob Tait to review the Parks and Recreation Commission approved budget. Ms. Mangold asked if the department and commission should be prepared to decrease the budget for the Selectman's presentation. Selectman Rosenthal commented that they were still evaluating the overall budget submissions from all departments. Adjustments will be determined after the State and FIMA numbers come through.

- *Newtown Bike and Trail Committee:*

The first official meeting of the Newtown Bike and Trail Committee was held on December 13, 2018. The seven member committee was sworn in by Town Clerk Deb Halstead. Dan Rosenthal and Amy Mangold gave an overview of how the committee was formed. Everyone was extremely enthusiastic. The committee will decide on a chairman and secretary, as well as a yearly calendar, at their next meeting which will be held on January 16th or 17th, 2019.

- *Community Center:*

The Community Center is still on schedule for a June 2019 opening. Community Center Director, Matt Ariniello is planning on selling memberships by this April. Right now both the Community Center and

Parks and Recreation are evaluating which software to use when the official move is made. P & R is currently using RecTrac, but is examining another program called Community Pass. Ms. Mangold has communicated to RecTrac personnel that improvements need to be made to RecTrac. They, in turn, are coming up with incentives and improvements to get P & R to stay. Ms. Reggiano will be going to Stamford Parks and Recreation (who has been using Community Pass for years) to compare the two systems to help weigh the options. Applications are pouring in regarding the two positions posted for the Community Center. Both Ms. Mangold and Ms. Reggiano will be involved in the hiring process for the future Aquatics Director. Ms. Mangold will also help choose the Program Coordinator for the Community Center.

New Business:

None.

Chairman's Report:

Edward Marks, Chairman Newtown Parks and Recreation:

- Mr. Marks reported that after The Board of Finance meeting, the Pickleball Courts Project got moved from a year three priority to a year one. Given the anonymous pledged donation of \$25,000, it moves the public's responsibility from \$290,000 to just \$265,000. It is a rapidly growing sport that particularly appeals to seniors so this is an exciting turn of events.

Director's Report:

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Mangold stated that Parks and Recreation had their first Senior Winter Pickleball session on Monday morning at 10:00 am, January 7, 2019 at Edmond Town Hall. There were 10 participants, and everyone was really excited about it.
- Ms. Mangold mentioned that with the retirement of Senior Center Director, Marilyn Place, she, Matt Ariniello, Ann Benore (Social Services Director) and Jennifer Crane (Director of Newtown Center for Support and Wellness) have been maintaining a presence at the Senior Center to ensure continuity and to help with the much needed transition over to the Community Center.

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- Ms. Reggiano stressed that they are extremely busy preparing for summer. Applications for summer employees are streaming in.
- 10th Annual Strutt Your Mutt will be held on Saturday, May 18th.
- Food Truck Festival will be held on July 27th. It will be held on the field on Fairfield Hills campus this year. The first meeting about this year's Food Truck Festival is on Thursday, January 10th.
- Hoping for cold weather for the January 25th "Snow Much Fun" winter event so that there can be ice skating. Either way, RoseAnn is anticipating a great evening.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

(Please see attachment #1)

- Mr. Samuelson distributed his monthly field report, see attached.

- Mr. Samuelson reiterated that Newtown Youth Baseball is asking to use the Glander Fields for a 2 day Memorial Day tournament, to raise money for the Jessica Rekos fund and looking to have the field use waived. It was mentioned that instead of waiving the field use fee, they will make sure that said fees, will be used toward the improvement of the fields for the benefit of Newtown Youth Baseball.
- It was discussed that specific guidelines are needed for assessing truck reliability. Mr. Samuelson stated that 22% of our Town Trucks are down at any given time. Mr. Marks put forth a need for annual routine truck inspections.
- Mr. Samuelson stated that Eichler's Cove ADA ramp installation project is well underway. Three additional slips are also being added.

Commissioners out and about: None

Motion:

Commissioner Rance Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Linda Hess, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room located at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT.

Submitted by,

Kate Geerer Sclafani, 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: January 8, 2019

RE: Monthly park update and field report

Our winter tasks are in full swing as Holiday clean up and winter renovations are underway.

Dickinson Park: A large swamp maple came down during the windstorm Sunday night, crushing one of the 26 benches. We have cleaned up the mass and are in the process of replacing the bench.

Public works also completed some tree work on the Dickinson/Liberty trail.

We have some major tree work to complete here this winter.

We need cold weather for the skating rink.



Newtown Middle School: These fields have been put to bed for the winter. We have no major plans here for the winter.

Orchard Hill: Land use is completing a survey here due to some abutting landowner tree complaints. Some wind damage to trees is being worked on but all trails are currently passable.

Lake Lillinonah: No new news here. No big winter plans here.

Glander Fields: Fields are closed for the season. We are working with NYB on plans for pre-fab dugouts for Glander 3. NYB would purchase the dugouts and Parks and Rec would install them over the summer.

Liberty Fields: Fields are closed for the season. Tree work along the trail is underway.

Oakview: This field is closed for the season. No major winter work is planned here.

Tilson Field: This field is quiet now.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: Things are quiet here for now.

Walnut Tree: The generator for an irrigation pump has been acquired and looks great. We will be working on the pad location and mainline pipe in coming weeks.

Fairfield Hills: The athletic fields are closed here. Campus clean-up had been completed but now there is some tree clean up to complete following the high winds over the weekend. We have worked with public works getting pruning done on the walking trail. The ice rink has been set up in a new location here but is currently a pond.

NHS Fields: These fields are closed for the season. Wintergreen was applied here in the past two weeks.

Dog Park: Things are quiet here right now

Treadwell Park: Things are quiet here now. Fence repair has been ongoing.

Eichlers Cove Marina: We are working daily on the ADA ramp installation. The small retaining wall addition is underway and things are progressing nicely. We need to authorize funds for ramp installation here as well as minor repair work of the old docks.



Sandy Hook School: The field is closed for the season.

Staff:

- 240 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1496 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 16% loss in workforce.