

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, May 14, 2019 in the Conference Room, 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks at 6:07 pm.

Present: Edward Marks, Warren Spencer, Vincent Yanni, Jr.,

Absent: Linda Hess, Clinton DePaolo, Patrick Barczak, Rance Thompson

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: Newtown Tennis Association

Mr. Ehab Farah, 34 West Street, Newtown, CT

Mr. Glenn Boyle, 2 Marlin Road, Sandy Hook, CT

Public Participation:

Mr. Farah of Newtown Tennis Association asked if Parks & Recreation had any luck procuring less costly quotes for lighting the tennis courts at Dickinson Park. That answer was no. Commission Chairman Ed Marks asked if more quotes could be obtained before the next meeting, and Assistant Director of Parks, Carl Samuelson said "yes". Mr. Farah also offered to get quotes, but needed a detailed list of what the project would entail. Chairman Marks committed to emailing him those specifications right away. Mr. Farah also asked Parks & Recreation to look into the cost of Roger's Park in Danbury as they just updated all of their courts and lighting. He was promised that Parks & Recreation would find out for him.

Acceptance of Minutes: None

Old Business:

- *Newtown Bike and Trail Committee Update:* There is a work party for Al's Trail on June 1, 2019. (see attachment #1). Paula Burton, a professional trail builder, is volunteering her time to teach community and committee members how to build and upkeep trails. The newly formed committee has done a great job communicating their priorities and schedules.
- *Community Center Update:* Community Center Director, Matt Ariniello hosted a very successful meeting between the Community Center, Parks & Recreation and Newtown Youth Academy. They discussed how certain programs overlap (ie. Yoga) and how to deal that. The meeting was all about collaboration while also addressing each entity's need to generate their own revenue, as well. It was suggested that they hold a follow-up meeting in three to six months.
- *Newtown Soccer Alliance Update:* P & R Chairman, Edward Marks stated that the Special Meeting with Newtown Soccer Club was extremely productive. Newtown Soccer Club is working very hard to tweak some problems that have arisen due to being a well-established club that has had customary leadership changes over the years. They are reviewing by-laws to bring the club up to date to accommodate the soccer needs of Newtown in a manner that is amenable to all.

New Business: None.

Correspondence:

- Parks and Recreation Director, Amy Mangold brought up the Letter to the Editor from Jim Wright regarding an alternative solution for the pickleball courts (see attachment #2). His suggestion of turning one tennis court into 4 pickleball courts was discussed. Chairman Marks asked if the suggestion was feasible to which Asst. Director Samuelson replied that it is, indeed, possible. Mr. Samuelson also mentioned that the town could invest in movable nets for said courts, as pickleball and tennis net heights are not equal should the idea of dual usage come into consideration. Chairman Marks said that they would definitely take a hard look at the tennis and pickleball court situation.
- Director Mangold also shared a thank you note from Middle Gate Elementary School thanking Parks & Recreation for a beautiful basket donation that was made up for their school's annual fundraiser (see attachment #3).
- We also received a photograph of the Chipmunk Condos constructed by the Girl Scouts at Dickinson Park (see attachment #4).

Chairman's Report:Edward Marks, Chairman Newtown Parks and Recreation:

- None.

Director's Reports:Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Director Mangold held a meeting with Assistant Director of Parks, Carl Samuelson and Assistant Director of Recreation, RoseAnn Reggiano and all recreation staff in the conference room with a team building expert, Alex Lunding. The meeting was about goal setting and communication. Everyone agreed that it was extremely helpful as they move forward with the move to the Community Center.

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- Ms. Reggiano reported that the 10th Annual Strutt Your Mutt takes place on Saturday, May 18, 2019.
- Planning for the Senior Citizen Dinner Dance, to be held on May 31st, is coming along nicely. Tickets sales are off to a great start with well over 30 tickets already sold.
- The Rooster Run is to be held on June 15, 2019. A beautiful rooster weather vane has been donated to Parks and Recreation to raffle off at the Rooster Run to raise money for the Newtown Camp Scholarship fund.
- This coming week, the gate attendants at Treadwell Park will be trained on RecTrac so that they will be able to track pool attendance and take pictures of pass holders who were unable to get down to the Parks & Recreation office during the week. Parks & Recreation Director Mangold commended Ms. Reggiano for working so diligently with the RecTrac upgrade which was no small task.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

- Mr. Samuelson distributed his monthly field report, (see attachment #5).
- Fields are in terrible shape due to all the rain we have had lately.
- They are down one maintainer so the possibility of hiring a level 2 Maintainer position as opposed to a level 1 Maintainer was discussed.

Commissioners out and about: None

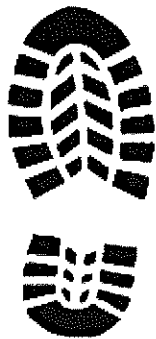
Motion:

Chairman Ed Marks adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room located at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT.

Submitted by,

Kate Geerer, clerk



Save Al's Trail



Trail Building Class

May 30, Thursday night 6:30 - 8:30

Lower level meeting room of the Police Station,
3 Main Street, Newtown

No Charge. Learn best practices and techniques for
maintaining and working on trails.

Trail Day - Work day on Al's Trail

June 1, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Park at end of Commerce Road, Newtown

Come understand the importance of this area of Al's
Trail to connect Fairfield Hills area trails to
downtown Sandy Hook. See Tom's Brook and the
Pootatuck river.

*Bring gardening tools, NO power tools, rakes,
shovels, picks, clippers, loppers.

*Bring – insect repellant, water to drink.

ABOUT AL'S TRAIL

10.7 mile trail winds its way through the state forests and parks,
town forests, town open space and private property. Along the
way see eagle roosting areas, abandoned gold mines, steep rock
cliffs and one of Connecticut's best trout streams.

#2

[To show the 4 pickleball courts in the space of 1 tennis court, would have emailed but can't find a P&R email address]

Pickleball Court Alternative

To the Editor

I have an alternate suggestion for Newtown pickleball courts.

The tennis court closest to the pickleball court at Treadwell Park could be converted into four pickleball courts. Four pickleball courts normally are spaced lengthwise into the space of one tennis court. Not counting the four high school tennis courts this leaves the town with eight remaining tennis courts, three at Treadwell and five at Dickenson Park.

Tennis often is played doubles, which is four players, but sometimes singles, which is two players. Pickleball almost always is played doubles. This means one tennis court will accommodate up to four tennis players at once while four pickleball courts in the same space will accommodate up to sixteen pickleball players.

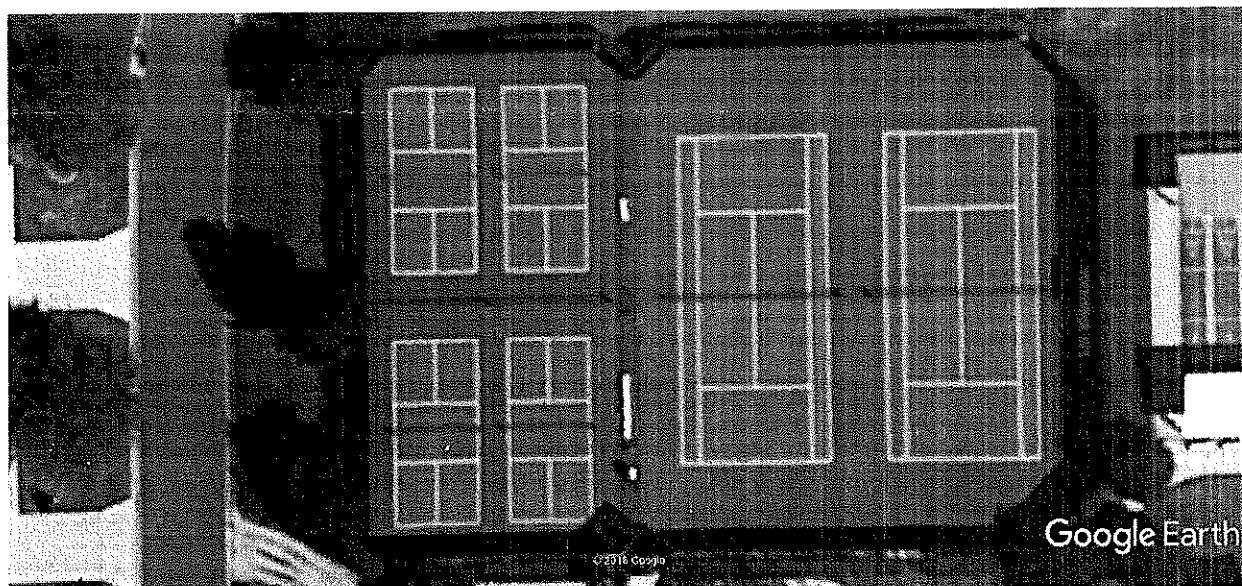
Should interest in pickleball fade the court always can be reconverted into a tennis court. But if Newtown is like a lot of other locations, tennis courts are increasingly going empty as pickleball courts fill up.

I am certain there are tennis players who will object. As a sometimes tennis player I sort of hate to lose a tennis court, but one tennis court for four pickleball courts is a trade I am willing to make.

Jim Wright
Tamarack Rd
Newtown
[203 313-7550]

4 JWW@EARTHLINK.NET

[Example of four pickleball courts on the space of one tennis court]





Middle Gate Parent-Teacher Association
7 Cold Spring Road, Newtown, CT 06470

Friday, April 12, 2019

Dear Donor,

On behalf of everyone at Middle Gate Elementary School, we would like to thank you for your generous donation to our Annual Parents' Night Out & Silent Auction. This year the money raised is going towards much needed new playground equipment. It also allows us to bring enrichment programs to the school in the areas of art, science, literacy and much more. It is businesses like yours that make our school and community so special.

Our Parents' Night Out continues to grow each year. This year with more in attendance and our generous donors and sponsors we raised just under \$13,000! We continue to always look for new ways to grow and improve this event and really appreciate your support.

We hope that you will join us in supporting Middle Gate Elementary School in future years. If you would like information about next year's event please email us at mgspno@gmail.com.

Kind Regards,

Gabrielle Joshpe, Jessica Sachs and Emily Howard



Chipmunk Condos
4/1/19
Dickinson- Barb's trail

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, 2019

RE: Monthly park update and field report

The weather has been dictating what we can and cant do this spring, and struggles to get fields in shape because of it continue.

Dickinson Park: The park and bathrooms are fully open. The wet weather has us struggling to mow and maintain certain areas but ruts we make now will be fixed when things dry out.

Newtown Middle School: We have picked up where we left off with rain last fall which has kept this field unplayable for much of the spring. The Middle School Baseball team has been using Walnut tree a lot for this reason.

Orchard Hill: Some minor erosion has been an issue here which will be addressed with seeding and vegetative establishment once thigs dry out.

Lake Lillinonah: Things are going well here and as they should be or the season.

Glander Fields: Fields are open and being groomed on a regular basis. Mowing has been sporadic at best on wet surfaces.

Liberty Fields: These fields are in decent shape when Mother Nature is kind enough to let them dry out a touch.

Oakview: This field is in decent shape, but excessive moisture remains a problem like everywhere else.

Tilson Field: No new news here.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: No new news here.

Walnut Tree: this field is one of the few fields we have that thrives when its wet. Newtown Middle School has been playing here a lot as well as Newtown Youth Baseball.

Fairfield Hills: Thins are blooming and greening up well here. No new news otherwise.

NHS Fields: These fields are in good shape despite heavy use in wet conditions this spring.

Dog Park: Things are quiet here right now; we will be working on the water features here in the next two weeks.

Treadwell Park: Backstop repair was scheduled to begin as soon as the ground was firm enough ...hoping that happens soon.

Eichlers Cove Marina: ADA ramp installation is going well. All of the concrete has been poured and the docks are all in, including the ADA docks. The ADA boardwalk is going well. More than half of the framing is complete and the decking will start going on soon. We ended up gaining 7 boat slips overall, 5 of which are ADA compliant.

Sandy Hook School: This field is in full swing and being used by both baseball as well as soccer.

Staff:

- 328 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 2376 potential work hours in the past month. This represents an 14% loss in workforce.