

**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 virtual meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Patrick Barczak at 6:11 pm.

**Present:** Edward Marks, Patrick Barczak, Clinton DePaulo, David Payne and Warren Spencer.

**Staff Present:** Amy Mangold, RoseAnn Reggiano and Carl Samuelson

**Absent:** Rance Thompson and Vincent Yanni

**Public:** Jan Brown, 15 Lori Lyn Circle, Newtown, CT 06470  
Maureen Crick Owen, 7 Glover Avenue, Newtown, CT 06470

**Public Participation:**

Ms. Jan Brown of Newtown Pickleball asked if the line painting for dual pickle ball/tennis use on the tennis courts at Dickinson Park was moving forward. Mr. Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks stated that they are third in line to have the courts slurried. They will be modifying two of the courts for pickle ball use at that time so that project should be started within two to three weeks. Ms. Brown was pleased with the response and thanked the Parks & Recreation Commission for all of their work.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

Acceptance of the Minutes from the March 10, 2020 meeting was put aside as there was not a quorum as Commission Chair Marks had not yet joined the meeting.

**Correspondence Report:**

- The office received a lovely note from Girl Scout Troop #50127 thanking Brid Craddock and the entire Bike and Trails Committee for all of their support in advertising the Girl Scouts Outdoor Booklet that they have worked on tirelessly. (See attachment #1).
- Ms. Mangold has received word from Girl Scout Troop #50598, that they would like to present a slide show to the commission in regard to the river that runs through Dickinson Park. When the slide show arrives, Ms. Mangold will post it as soon as possible to share what ideas the young ladies have for the river. (See attachment #2).

## Old Business:

- *None.*

## New Business:

- *2020/2021 Municipal Budget:*

Due to COVID 19, the Board of Finance suggested a budget reduction for taxpayers to ease their burden. Because no public referendum was able to be held, the vote moved to the Legislative Council on May 6, 2020 as they have the authority to okay the budget without the public. That being said, The Legislative Council passed the budget unanimously.

- *Summer phase-in planning and reopening:*

Due to Covid 19, the spring season had to be cancelled and the office found that most participants were happy with a credit rather than a refund. Parks & Recreation is now looking at an extremely modified summer, with some virtual programs in place, sign-ups ongoing with plans in place depending on what the state will allow come summer. The first phase has been leaving hiking trails open and doing a few things virtually. The park employees have been marking trails for social distancing. Ms. Mangold believes that things may ease up a bit come May 20. Until then, the parks remain closed, but she is hopeful for the go ahead to have them partially reopened on May 20<sup>th</sup> (still no playground or dog parks opened). People would have to maintain distance, play singles tennis only, follow public policy and use common sense and police themselves. A sign will go up reminding citizens that “A CROWDED PARK, IS A CLOSED PARK”, stressing that it is in everyone’s best interest to stick to the recommended guidelines.

Eichler’s Cove is up and running even though the beach and picnic areas remain closed. 75 of the 85 boat slips are rented, 20 out of 36 dry storage spots are rented, as well as all six of the jetski slips. Lake Lillinonah boat launch is open also. Ms. Mangold is hopeful that Eichler’s Cove beach will be able to open for the season with strict guidelines in place. They spoke of the Parks Department putting up structural barriers of some sort to promote social distancing at the beach. Commissioner Clinton DePaolo asked if the lifeguards were going to wear masks to which Assistant Director of Recreation, RoseAnn Reggiano replied; “Yes, they will. Waterproof masks are on order for the guards.” As far as Treadwell Pool goes, following CDC recommendations, with guidance from Donna Culbert, will be key in the decision about opening the pool. As of now, the CDC is not allowing any sports organizations to run, excluding very small group training sessions. If Treadwell Pool does NOT open to the public, P & R is considering pool use for programs such as Masters Swimming and summer swim team (with staggered time slots for social distancing purposes). Time will tell. (See attachment #3 for signage to be put up at boat launches.)

Ms. Mangold set forth a proposal for Summer 2020 Pool Pass fees to reflect the tentative nature of Summer 2020. Not only is there no go ahead to open Treadwell Pool to the

public, but a reservation system at Eichler's Cove Beach may have to be put in place as well. Because of this, Ms. Mangold proposed a half price Pool Pass for Summer 2020.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Clinton DePaolo put forth a motion to accept Ms. Mangold's suggestion to offer Summer 2020 Pool Passes at half price provided a reservation system be put in place. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.**

In the continued effort to encourage sales, Ms. Mangold shared with the commission that she and RoseAnn Reggiano discussed an All Access Pool Pass with Community Center Director, Matt Ariniello and Aquatics Director, Kristin Rebelo. They would like to offer an All Access Pool Pass for Community Center members to be able to purchase Park & Recreation Pool Passes for another half off the already reduced price.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Clinton DePaolo made a motion to accept the proposed All Access Pool Pass for the Summer of 2020. This would mean an additional 50% off the already reduced price of the Newtown Parks & Recreation Pool Passes for Community Center members. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Spencer, and was approved unanimously.**

Camps are allowed to start on June 29<sup>th</sup> which is a week later than originally planned. Day camps are limited to groups of 10, including the counselor with only 30 people allowed at any one site at a given time. Depending on the size of the park, up to 60 people may be allowed. Commissioner Spencer asked how that works out with the normal camp numbers, to which Ms. Reggiano stated; "That would suffice for Dickinson day camps, but the Treadwell day camp numbers are usually about 125 people per week. Registrations will have to be on a first come, first served basis." (Please see attachment #4 for special CDC website links).

In terms of Special Events that normally take place in the summer, the following concessions have been made: The Rooster Run is postponed until October. The Mad Dash is cancelled until further notice. The Summer Concert series will be going forward in some form. Right now, thoughts are moving toward a virtual concert on Tuesdays for the children and social distancing concerts for the families on Thursdays.

**Chairman's Report:**

Edward Marks, Chairman Newtown Parks and Recreation:

- None.

**Director's Report:**

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Other than the many concerns of phasing into Parks & Recreation's summer offerings, Director Mangold also reported that she, together with Commissioner DePaolo and Assistant Director of Parks, Carl Samuelson, has a scheduled call with Brad Accettella of the Bike and Trails Committee regarding their progress on the bicycle playground.
- Fruit and Trail committee received matching funds (of \$2,400) to be used toward educational signs and markers from the "In Your Backyard" campaign. (See attachment #5)

*RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:*

- Ms. Reggiano reported to the commission that as far as day camp goes, she is waiting (along with all the other Connecticut Parks and Recreation departments) on the Governor's Report to see if camps can open. She is also waiting on the word about hosting sports camps. "It is a waiting game right now", Ms. Reggiano said.
- In the meantime, everything is set up in RecTrac to move forward with a normal summer and many alternate, virtual programs have been researched and planned if need be. The IT Department was able to load RecTrac onto Ms. Reggiano's home tablet which has been very helpful during this social distancing time.
- People have been signing up for programs (which they are encouraging for planning purposes). Participants are aware how tentative planning is right now, and most spring participants have been fine with receiving a credit toward future programs rather than an immediate reimbursement. The department has gotten many compliments on how they have handled the situation.
- Commissioner Barczak asked if the initial date of May 20, was still in place for a gradual reopening of the parks, to which Ms. Reggiano answered, "yes".

*Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:* (Please see attachment #6)

- See attachment.

**Commissioners out and about:**

- None.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Clinton DePaolo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Warren Spencer, which was carried unanimously.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Multi-purpose Room located at 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT.

Submitted by,

*Kate Geerer, clerk*



Dear Brid and the entire Bikes and Trails Committee,

Thank you so much for helping us with our project. Your tips on advertising, cross-advertising with us at both our events and meeting with us were perfect. We had a number of people who visited our kick off at the library who also were heading to the Bikes and Trails event that day!

We are very excited that our booklet is finally launched, and we hope people will get outdoors soon. We are glad we met you and thank you again!!

Sincerely,  
Jill and Ashley  
Girl Scouts  
Troop 50127

*Correspondence #2*

Amy Mangold &lt;amy.mangold@newtown-ct.gov&gt;

**[Newtown CT] Girl Scout Junior Troop 50598 Take Action Plan (Sent by Alicia Brown, maiaonyx@yahoo.com)**  
1 message**Contact form at Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Reply-To: maiaonyx@yahoo.com

To: amy.mangold@newtown-ct.gov

Tue, May 12, 2020 at 10:32 AM

Hello amangold,

Alicia Brown (maiaonyx@yahoo.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/user/473/contact>) at Newtown CT.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.newtown-ct.gov/user/473/edit>.

Message:

Good morning Ms. Mangold,

I am the Leader of Girl Scout Junior Troop 50598 from Middle Gate and Reed Schools. My Girl Scouts were in the middle of designing a Take Action Plan for their Think Like An Engineer Journey before schools closed because of Covid-19. They were really hoping to come in and talk to you in person about their plan for addressing some of the problems with the Dickinson Park stream, but as that is no longer possible, they prepared a slideshow for you. This website will not allow me to attach a slideshow, so would you please send me an email address that I could send it to?

Thank you very much for your time,

Alicia Brown  
Leader  
Troop 50598

*Attachment #2**Correspondence*

18 in



# EICHLER'S COVE MARINA

Your actions are essential to keeping boating and marine services open, safe, and accessible for everyone to enjoy.

## #1 RULE: USE COMMON SENSE - PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

BEFORE YOU GO	DEPARTURE	ON THE WATER	RETURNING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boat-Mates should be House-Mates</li> <li>• No congregating on the dock or deck</li> <li>• Be self-sufficient: pack your own sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, disposable gloves, and face-masks</li> <li>• Prepare to enjoy the natural social distance of boating!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain at least 6 foot distance between people on the docks</li> <li>• Follow marina rules for restrooms, and public areas</li> <li>• Avoid any unnecessary contact with anyone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid beaching the boat next to other boaters</li> <li>• Avoid rafting up and keep your distance on the water</li> <li>• Find a secluded spot away from others to relax</li> <li>• In the event of an emergency be careful with responder contact</li> <li>• Enjoy your boat, the water, fresh air and freedom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be prepared to dock or trailer with your crew only - avoid assistance from others</li> <li>• Utilize gloves for lines, hoses, cords, etc.</li> <li>• Square away your boat and head directly to your vehicle</li> <li>• Avoid contact with facility employees and guests when possible</li> <li>• Follow the rules and guidelines provided by the facility and be respectful</li> </ul>

*Stay Safe = Have Fun = Use Common Sense*

(those who don't comply will be asked to leave the marina)



# LAKE LILLINONAH BOAT LAUNCH

Your actions are essential to keeping boating and marine services open, safe, and accessible for everyone to enjoy.

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*Stay Safe = Have Fun = Use Common Sense*

(those who don't comply will be asked to leave the facility)

24 in





Katherine Geerer <katherine.geerer@newtown-ct.gov>

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## camp links for guidelines as mentioned in my report

1 message

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

Thu, May 14, 2020 at 5:05 PM

To: Katherine Geerer <katherine.geerer@newtown-ct.gov>

### Day Camp June 29<sup>th</sup>

Below are resources the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has drafted for licensed and unlicensed camps childcare facilities. From a risk management perspective, CRPA recommends that municipal camps consult with their local health department and follow CDC and OEC guidelines to help prepare for the eventual opening of your summer camps.

Executive Order 7B (#6)

Executive Order 7H (#1)

Executive Order 7Q (#1&2)

OEC: Youth Camp Guidance (Memo 18)

OEC: Reduced Group Size and Enhanced Health Procedures for Child Care Programs During COVID-19 Emergency  
(Memo 15)

OEC: Message from the State of CT Regarding Childcare (Memo 6)

OEC: Guidance for Unlicensed Camps During COVID-19 Pandemic (letter to municipal CEOs)

OEC: Application for Approval for more than 30

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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!!!

## COVID-19

[Learn more about how you can give and get support to respond to COVID-19 in your community](#)



[Find a Project](#) [Create a Project](#)

[MENU](#)

STATUS: OPEN, ACCEPTING VOLUNTEERS

# The Newtown Fruit Trail sign campaign

To provide informational signs for the trail filled with fruit and nut plants and trees along a portion of a looped multipurpose trail at the Fairfield Hills Campus.

[SHARE THIS PROJECT](#)

This project is eligible for match funding through the Sustainable CT Community Match Fund. Give today to have your donation doubled!

## About the Match

[Overview](#) [Budget](#) [Updates](#) [Donors](#) [Nearby Projects](#)



project leader  
Amy M

location  
Mile Hill South  
(Fairfield Hills Campus )

latest update  
No updates yet.



PROJECT DEADLINE:  
July 15, 2020

61

Days Left

TOTAL FUNDING NEEDED: \$4,858

\$50

RAISED SO FAR

\$4,808

STILL NEEDED

## the project

In June, 2016, the town of Newtown, CT, through the Parks and Recreation Department and a generous, excited group of volunteers, welcomed a groundbreaking new project to their collective landscape, a 1/4 mile paved portion of a walking loop lined with 1005 edible fruit trees, nut trees, berry bushes and healing native plants called the Newtown Fruit Trail.

The Fruit Trail is a demonstration of best-practice land-use techniques, drawing on a huge variety of native, fruiting plants and wildflowers to create a self sufficient ecosystem that provides for the health and well-being of the land, the wildlife, and the community as one.

\$

\$25

funds dedicated to the artist to help get the signs created

It is becoming a common theme for towns and cities to welcome community gardens or even small stands of fruit trees onto public land. The Newtown Fruit Trail offers one of the largest free, edible, public, perennial landscape in this area. Newtown's own Parks and Recreation department is determined to carry this project through with maximum care and efficiency from start to finish. Standing back 4 seasons later the project is a great success, already beautiful to behold, drawing together members of the community and improving the health of the very land it grows.

One of the goals and common requests of visitors is to learn more about the growth and foliage that is flourishing there. We have wanted to educate the visitors on the plantings and information about the trail through signage, and also share with volunteers and visitors what is ready for harvest and supported maintenance. We want to use the money raised to provide signage and a kiosk to help with that goal of education, knowledge and instruction for all visitors and volunteers.

## the steps

1. Have a local artist create the signage to fit the project theme and design to make the educational and instructional signage.
2. Once the signs are created, get them to a local sign printer to have them created and placed on durable outdoor mounts.
3. Have volunteers ready to help install the new signs and kiosk during our event titled Fruit Trail Reawakening on September 19th and 20th, 2020.

## why we're doing it

On the morning of June 11th, 2016 more than 50 volunteers showed up at Fairfield Hills to install this long-anticipated Newtown Fruit Trail. Together the people of Newtown worked as one beautiful team, a true community, bringing the Fruit Trail to life not only with ease, but with pleasure. Together then and continuing now, Newtown enjoys the pleasure of world-repair, doing something at last to heal the town, to honor the earth, and to work in harmony for a truly better community. That weekend and continuing on each growing season, we all come together for the long-term health of our town, our land, and our planet. With shovels at hand, and now fresh fruit and friends side by side, the work we continue to do at the trail is a thriving image of what a community can do together, everyone's good, loving work, woven forever into the landscape. We look forward to this Rewakening to improve on this wonderful project even more with the goals of signage complete.

**\$100**

A higher level of sign creation

**\$250**

A sign for a tree or planting

**\$500**

Complete educational trail head sign

**\$1,000**

Kiosk funding

## Volunteers Needed!

This project's leader is looking for volunteers to help out:

*On the Weekend of May 2nd Gather together to evoke your own gardening appetite as we dig into the thawing trail.*

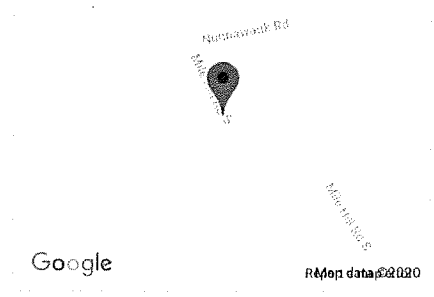
*Join us in community at the Fruit Trail to get our hands dirty and our hearts alight for all of the growing to come. We'll tidy up the gardens, plant new trees, assess the health of our plants and evaluate tasks for the year ahead. We'll be removing winter tree cages, planting new bulbs, shrubs and 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.*

*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. We are also in the process of working with Sustainable CT Community Match Fund to finally provide and install educational signs and a kiosk for the trail. We hope to be installing these beautiful and educational signs this reawakening weekend.*

*Last year, the trail surprised us with a flush of Cosmos that brightened the length of the trail. This year, we can expect another new spectrum of color as our perennial plants grow into maturity. We can look forward to our third season of public 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; whether you are a garden expert or an inspired beginner, there is a role for everyone at the trail!*

[Inquire About Volunteering >](#)

## where it's at



"Crowdfunding is a way of saying, 'This matters to me.' It's kind of like pushing the train a little bit so it can get rolling. It lets others know that there's enough people that care that they're willing to dig into their pocket to try and make it happen."

Ivette Bledsoe, Firefly Trail Inc., Athens, GA

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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:** May 12, 2020

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

The Covid-19 Pandemic has obviously drastically changed our world as well as how our department has been functioning. Snow flurries on Saturday and Sunday, followed by hail on Monday has capped off a roller coaster of weather in the past month as well. Up until Monday May 11 we have been working alternating shifts, so we had a maximum of 50% staff at any given time. We have mulched the "Pleasance" with 55 yards of mulch, as we did last year as well.

**Dickinson Park:** This Park has been closed for the past month. After many unseasonably cold nights it looks like the long range forecast is warming up. We are third on our vendors list for tennis court slurry. Although I do not have any dates from him at least the weather will allow his season to start.

**Newtown Middle School:** No new news here, fields are closed.

**Orchard Hill:** No new news.

**Lake Lillinonah:** The dock is in for the season.

**Oakview:** This field is currently closed but is looking good after sodding some worn goal mouth areas.

**Tilson Field:** No new news here.

**Treadwell Soccer/Softball:** These fields have been closed for the past month, no news here.

**Glander Fields:** Fields are closed, no news here.

**Liberty Fields:** No news here.

**Walnut Tree:** This Park has been closed for the past month, no news here.

**Fairfield Hills:** We created a “social distancing” stencil that we continually reapply after rain with chalk paint, reminding patrons to keep distanced from one another. We have completed a normal spring clean-up here as well as storm clean up following a mid-April storm. We have been sanitizing benches and dog waste bag dispensers here as well.

**NHS Fields:** This Park has been closed for the past month. The baseball field spring prep efforts look great and we are even getting some growth on the practice football field.

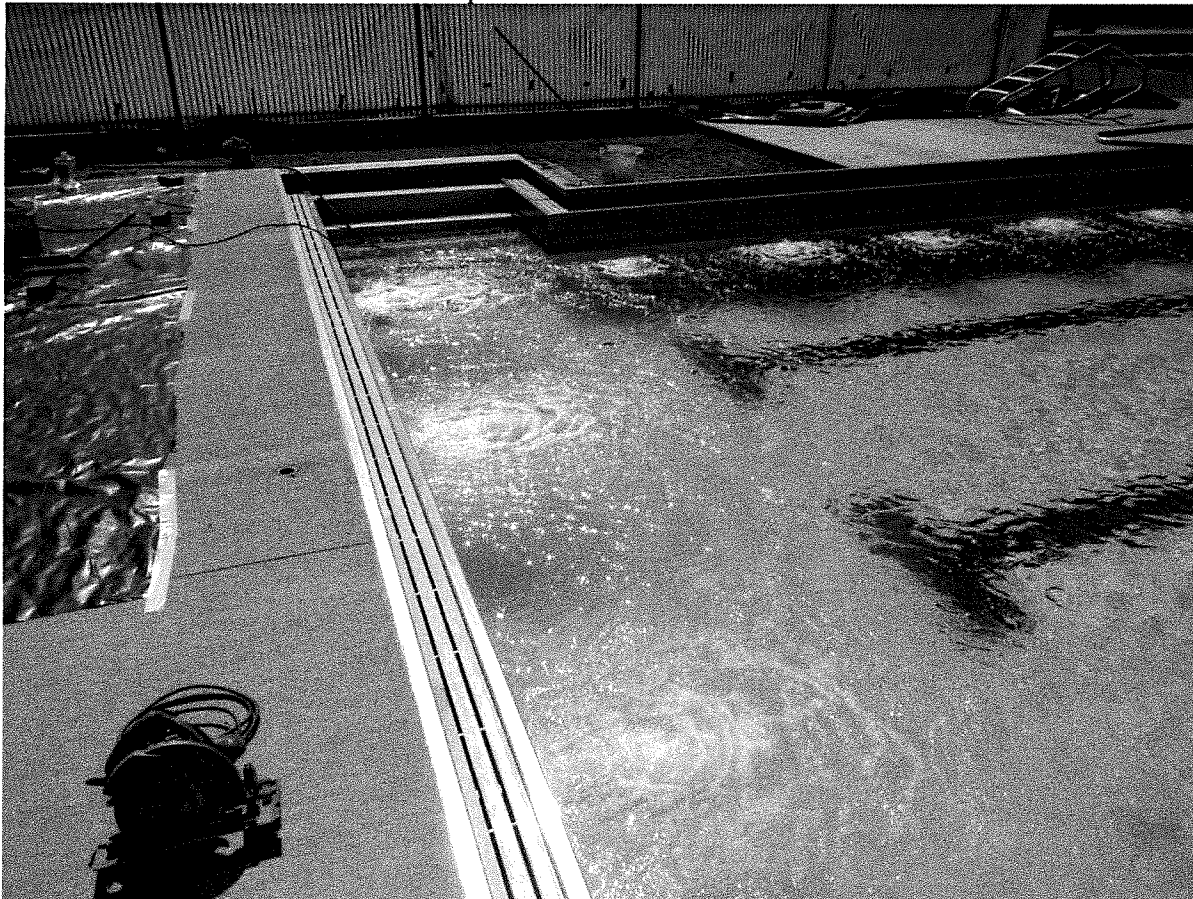
**Sandy Hook School:** No news here, fields are closed.

**Hawley School Fields:** No news here, fields are closed.

**Eichlers Cove Marina:** All of the docks have been pressure washed and installed for the season. We had to install the old access catwalk as the new one has been delayed due to Covid-19. The old unit was repaired and welded as best as possible for now. We have started weeding beds and the repurposed Warden shed has been renovated for use.

**Dog Park:** This Park has been closed for the past month. We have over seeded the entire park and have repaired 4 out of 5 of the water features. The 5<sup>th</sup> feature will require a significant investment if we choose to repair it.

**Treadwell Park:** The balance of the pool deck has been poured. The deck is all brand new and some final detail work and fence completion is all that remains.









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

**Watertown Field:** Watertown field #2 has been too wet to move on to the next steps but Public Works has begun to screen topsoil, some of which will be used here.

Staff:

- 872 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1680 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 52% loss in workforce.