



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 | 6:00 p.m.
Phone Number: +1 319-449-2741 | PIN: 402 351 196 #

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

Commissioners Present: Edward Marks, Patrick Barczak, Clinton DePaolo, David Payne, Warren Spencer, Vincent Yanni

Commissioners Absent: Rance Thompson

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson

Staff Absent: RoseAnn Reggiano

Public Present: Alexa Larson

Chairman Marks called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Public Participation

Alexa Larson works with multiple municipalities and is interested in proposing a program in the future, which she has discussed with Director Mangold. She stated that her purpose here tonight was to observe the meeting and learn about the Commission before she pitches the program to them.

Acceptance of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner DePaolo made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of August 18, 2020. Commissioner Yanni seconded.

Chairman Marks wished to amend the minutes as follows: under the first bullet point of page two, in the CIP section, he recommended that "projects are typically requested through the CIP" replace the phrase "included in the CIP."

All were in favor of accepting the minutes of August 18, 2020, as amended, and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: Disc Golf Update

Director Mangold shared that Assistant Director Samuelson and Commissioner DePaolo had a conference call with Brian Giggey of Explore Disc Golf and Ed Miklaszewski of the Newtown Lions Club. Mr. Miklaszewski shared his vision for the program, since it will be co-sponsored by the Club. Mr. Giggey contributed as an expert on the sport, Mr. Miklaszewski as a representative of the Lions Club, Assistant Director Samuelson as an expert on the site, and Commissioner DePaolo as a player of the sport.

Mr. Giggey will come to the campus on September 20th for a site consultation.

Commissioner DePaolo shared that the phone call was very productive, and that the current plan is a truncated course of 3 to 6 holes as opposed to a full course of 18. He mentioned that the sport is better played on a varied topography, so Fairfield Hills may not be the ideal space.

Assistant Director Samuelson added that Mr. Giggey felt the Commission should master plan an 18-hole course, because in his experience the course would not be a destination for out of towners unless it were a full course - even if it is not built right away.

Chairman Marks wondered if there was an issue in using the course for both disc golf and “foot golf,” with a soccer ball. Director Mangold reported that Mr. Giggey said that mixing the two together was uncommon in his experience.

Commissioner Spencer asked what the goal of Mr. Giggey's visit was. Assistant Director Samuelson explained Mr. Giggey will be visiting on a weekend when it's busy to see how “used” the campus is and get an idea for a permanent location for the 18-hole master plan.

Chairman Marks wondered if a disc golf course could unofficially be used by soccer players. Commissioner DePaolo said yes, there is no fear of messing up the fairway as there might be with an actual golf course. The net at the end of the course could accommodate either a disc or a soccer ball.

Chairman Marks inquired when would be a good time to bring this to the Fairfield Hills Authority (FHA). Director Mangold said that she reached out today to see when the next meeting was, and received a relatively negative response from Chairman Ross Carley. Chairman Marks wondered what would happen if the FHA did not endorse the plan. Director Mangold said she is confident that if the Commission presents a well thought out plan with backing from community members and organizations, FHA would be on board. Chairman Marks figured a good first step would be to get FHA's blessing to move forward with conceptual renderings. Director Mangold mentioned that it is also important to consult with the Land Use Agency throughout this process.

Director Mangold wanted to clarify: did Chairman Marks wish to get FHA permission for the consultation? He replied that he just wanted to pitch the general idea to them, not necessarily seek approval. Director Mangold said she could forward him an email to that effect.

Old Business: Bicycle Playground Update

Director Mangold shared that she had spoken with Paula Burton of the Bikes and Trails Committee regarding the playground. Assistant Director Samuelson is in the process of seeking a more specific design from American Ramp Company, and they are also waiting on a better cost estimate.

Commissioner DePaolo met with First Selectmen Dan Rosenthal to explain the Bicycle Playground concept and get his support. This will be a beneficial feature for the campus and due diligence will be performed before the project is undertaken. First Selectman Rosenthal is on board and enthusiastic. Director Mangold contributed that she told FHA she will also keep them apprised of progress.

Correspondence

Nothing to report for this agenda item.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Marks said that they are at a lull between the CIP and budget, so he has nothing to report.

Director's Report from Amy Mangold

Director Mangold said the CIP is being delivered to Director of Finance Robert Tait tomorrow. As requested at the last meeting, Director Mangold shared that the surcharge balance is \$419,821.60, which is not so bad considering the circumstances. Plus, the fields had a lot less wear and tear than usual, which means they will have a longer "life." Chairman Marks wondered when the turf field would next need to be replaced. Director Mangold replied it is scheduled for fiscal year '26-'27.

Chairman Marks wondered if there was a way to make clear to anyone donating to, say, the carnival, that a portion of their donation will go to the Park Gift Fund which may be spent at the discretion of the Commission. Director Mangold said she would need to speak with Director Tait about this.

Director Mangold said that Eichler's Cove had to close a lot at the end of the summer due to water quality and algae content. Director of Health Donna Culbert, Director of Land Use George Benson, and Deputy Director of Land Use Rob Sibley were all a great help in the monitoring effort.

Chairman Marks wanted to know if there was positive feedback on the improvements to Treadwell Pool. Director Mangold thought perhaps it was overlooked due to all COVID-19 management changes. Assistant Director Samuelson added that "it's more about what we didn't hear," noting that during this very challenging summer there were virtually no complaints.

Assistant Director's Report from RoseAnn Reggiano

Assistant Director of Recreation Reggiano was not present, but she shared her updates with Director Mangold in advance of the meeting. Assistant Director Reggiano has been working hard on the fall programming, trying to comply with COVID-19 restrictions while remaining committed to offering their usual docket of programs. She has worked with Becky Osborne of the Newtown Scholarship Association regarding the Rooster Run [Attachment A] which had been rescheduled from the spring to the fall. It has been decided that it will be a "virtual race," in which participants will still raise money with sponsors like usual, but the runners will log their own course and time and submit it to the professional timers. Director Mangold said she would like to emphasize that the point of this race is to raise money for the scholarships fund, for students pursuing careers in recreation. The dates will be Sunday, September 27th - Saturday, October 3rd. This has been advertised through Facebook, e-blast, and website. The Turkey Trot will be virtual this year as well.

Assistant Director Reggiano is also working on a Spooktacular Family Fun event [Attachment B] which will consist of two hours of programs at Dickinson Park. She will limit the amount of people via registration, charge a fee, and make use of the social distancing circles in the park. Director Mangold commended her efforts. It will be Saturday, October 24th from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Director Mangold said that due to the success of and positive response to the parks' social distancing circles, they have decided to offer concerts during the day. On September 13th, from 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., the Survivors Swing Band will play a concert geared towards seniors (Grandparents Day).

Assistant Director Reggiano is working on getting the fall programming into print brochure form. There are outstanding questions regarding basketball, since the school gyms are no longer available.

Director Mangold said they are surveying the swim team families to see if they are interested in some additional competitive programming.

Parks and Recreation will be partnering with Newtown Youth Academy to run a pilot program called “Little Laxers,” with the goal of not needing to hire outside parties and pay fees. This program will also contribute to the required hours by Parks and Recreation.

Assistant Director's Report from Carl Samuelson [Attachment C]

Assistant Director of Parks Samuelson said there have not been many updates since last meeting. The biggest challenge has been dealing with the wake of Tropical Storm Isaias, the cleanup of which has taken a lot of man-hours away from normal maintenance. This will clear up soon, as an outside contractor will take over the cleanup operations. He said that Parks and Rec will also begin to work on trees that look like liabilities for future storms.

Anchors and tiles have been installed at Treadwell Pool. Rubber has been stripped from the court at Dickinson in preparation for recoating next week. It will be available for use the following day.

Assistant Director Samuelson said they are working hard to mow and get fields ready for fall ball. It will not be a normal fall season - for instance, younger sports will have more of a clinic season (in-house) than a competitive season. Chairman Marks asked about youth football. Assistant Director Samuelson explained that youth football is having their season, however CIAC has canceled high school football. Field availability will depend upon whether CIAC reverses their decision. Chairman Marks mentioned that he read an article about the possibility of a spring football season. Assistant Director Samuelson said that would be a logistical mess, since it would lead to the displacement of other groups like Blue & Gold and lacrosse.

Mr. Marks asked how behind cleanup is. Assistant Director Samuelson said they were supposed to have four fields completed by Labor Day, but they've only gotten to two.

Commissioners Out and About

Nothing to report for this agenda item.

Adjournment

Commission DePaolo made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Yanni seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Christine O'Neill, substitute clerk*

Attachments

Attachment A: Rooster Run Flyer

Attachment B: Spooktacular Family Fun Event

Attachment C: Carl Samuelson's Report

47th Rooster Run

Newtown Rooster Run Virtual Road Race

Support the Newtown Scholarship Association

Run your race from

Sunday September 27th to Saturday October 3rd at midnight!

Race can be run by ages 5 and up!

5K • 10K • Little Chicks, ½ Mile

If you cannot run, think about sponsoring or donate, by clicking the link
<https://runsignup.com/Race/Donate/CT/Newtown/NewtownRoosterRunRoadRaces>

All contributions are tax deductible. \$100 or more and we will promote your business on our social media and all promotional items.



Please make checks out and mail to:

Newtown Parks and Recreation
8 Simpson Street
Newtown, CT 06470



A virtual race is a race that can be run (or walked) from any location you choose.
Participants can complete the race wherever they like, even a treadmill....

Participants get to run your own race, at your own pace, and time it yourself.

First 200 registered will receive a dry fit mask with logo. Masks and medals can be picked up at 8 Simpson Street, after September 28th.

Please Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Newtown/NewtownRoosterRunRoadRaces>

Then submit your results to www.plattsys.com by using the following link
www.plattsys.com/a_virtual.php

Make it a family event!

Support the Newtown Scholarship Association, investing in Newtown's Youth

<https://www.newtownscholarship.org/>



Spooktacular Family Fun Event!

Join Newtown Parks and Recreation for a spooky day filled with games and activities for the whole family! Make your way through the stations. Classic board games such as Simon says and chutes and ladders are now social distance safe for everyone!

There will also be a costume contest, think you can win? Take your best shot at one of the following categories:

- Family Look Alike
- Scariest
- Cutest



- Most Creative
- Funniest
- Best Overall

Winners for each category will get a pumpkin!

Come down to Dickinson Town Park, 50 Elm Drive, on Saturday, October 24th from 11am – 1pm!

There will be a limit of 100 people and open to residents only. To follow CDC guidelines, masks and social distancing will be required. Social distancing circles will be set up.

Preregistration is required online at newtown-ct.gov/parks-recreation or give us a call at (203) 270-4340

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
12:00PM, OCTOBER 24TH 2020

Resident Fee: \$5 per person

Activity Code 114102-A

Interested in volunteering? Give us a call or email roseann.reggiano@newtown-ct.gov



Attachment C

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: August 18, 2020

RE: Monthly park update and field report

Our staff is still assisting Public Works with labor and equipment on roadside cleanup. Hopefully this effort will be winding down in the next couple of weeks. We have been starting to lay out fields and get fields prepped for fall sports.

Dickinson Park: Things are in pretty good shape here. A few storm damaged trees still need to be pruned but things have been cleaned up otherwise. An Eagle Scout has taken on a weeding project here for a merit badge. This will certainly help us since our labor has been tied up. The basketball court has been stripped of rubber and final surface prep is being completed before recoating next week. Two brand new nets here have been vandalized, now ones are on order.

Newtown Middle School: The fields have been prepped and groomed for fall play.

Orchard Hill: There was an injury here last week requiring them to cut the chains on gates. The chains have since been repaired.

Lake Lillinonah: Things are in good shape here. No new news.

Oakview: things are in good shape here. No new news.

Tilson Field: Field Turf is scheduled to be here Thursday to complete line repairs.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: Two loose lines on this field will be repaired Thursday. Fields are being used on a regular basis now.

Glander Fields: Fields are all set for fall use, otherwise no new news here.

Liberty Fields: Fields are all set for fall use, otherwise no new news here.

Walnut Tree: Storm cleanup has been completed here. Field is all set for fall use.

Fairfield Hills: High Meadow has been edged and the clay has been graded for fall use. Teams started playing here at the end of last week. The batting cage net was also installed for fall use. A few minor fence repairs remain once we have the manpower to do so.

NHS Fields: These fields were all fertilized prior to school returning. Fall sports are using the fields on a regular basis here.

Sandy Hook School: Fields are all set for fall use, otherwise no new news here.

Hawley School Fields: Two trees remain here that need attention following the storm. Parks and Rec along with Public Works have been asked to leave by school administrators whenever we have attempted to get to them. I am working with the BOE to find an appropriate time to clean them up.

Eichlers Cove Marina: No new news here. Lighting timers have been a minor pain with the power issues. Timers have needed constant attention.

Dog Park: No new news here.

Treadwell Park: The playgrounds and beds have all been weeded here following storm clean up.

The pool season has been extended a bit as the BOE is using the pool for swimming until weather forces them indoors.

The pool renovation contractor has started installing depth markers and cover anchors this week to prepare for covering the pool.

Pole Bridge Preserve: No new news here.

Watertown Field: Irrigation install is scheduled for the week of the 14th. Seeding will follow.

Staff:

- 136 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1440 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 9.5% loss in workforce.