

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 an in-person meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 with an opportunity for phone – in public participation, in the multipurpose room of the Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clinton DePaolo at 6:01pm

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

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano

Absent: *None*

Public: Ms. Alexa Larson- 211 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT 06801
Melissa Hudson- 10 Winding Rd, Newtown, CT 06470

Public Participation:

- Ms. Alexa Larson thanked everyone for allowing her to keep her small garden behind the senior center along with being able to store her tools there. She mentioned her concerns about foreign bugs she has been finding in her gardening bins.
- Ms. Melissa Hudson called in to speak to the commission about a mini book library she would like to install at the Treadwell Park. She told how she would like to place it on the island across from the playground next to the existing bench that is there. She emailed Director Amy Mangold a proposal along with pictures of where she would like to install the structure. (*Attachments #1 - #5*)

Acceptance of Minutes:

- **Acceptance of Minutes:** Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2021 commission meeting. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the acceptance of the minutes.
- **Acceptance of Minutes:** Commissioner Aaron Britton made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 26, 2021, 2021 commission meeting. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the acceptance of the minutes.
- **Acceptance of Minutes:** Commissioner Warren Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2021 commission meeting. Commissioner David Payne seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the acceptance of the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Dickinson Pavilion:** Mr. Clinton DePaolo recapped on what was went over at last month's meeting about the Dickinson Pavilion. He spoke about whether it would be a repair or a rebuild and mentioned that Mr. Carl Samuelson is looking into engineers to come and take a look at the pavilion to assess the structure. Mr. Samuelson reported that one quote said it was \$12,000 to just get a quote, and due to the amount he has to get 3

quotes for engineers. Mr. Rance Thompson asked if they could go with a local construction company to take a look at the pavilion instead, Mr. Samuelson told him no because they are not engineers. Mr. Thompson also asked that with whatever company they do decide to go with to look at the pavilion, would the amount that they pay be contributed towards the reconstruction or repairs to the pavilion? Mr. Samuelson explained that it would not be able to do that because it would be done by two different companies.

- *Temporary Pickleball Courts:* Mr. Clinton DePaolo reported that they are looking great after receiving some of the renovations that were discussed at last month's meeting. The new temporary fence has been installed and the new temporary surface will be getting done soon as well. The courts are always full and Mr. DePaolo believes the repairs will be a great thing for the area. There have been some complaints from the Fairfield Hills Authority chairman Ross Carly and George Benson regarding the fencing that was put up, but they have since made changes to help accommodate.
- *Bicycle Playground:* Ms. Amy Mangold reported that the Fairfield Hills Authority approved the playground's new placement and that the next step will be to go to Planning and Zoning and hopefully get the green light to continue to move forward with the project. It will be a great addition to the campus as there aren't many around the North East.

NEW BUSINESS

- *None*

Correspondence:

- Ms. Amy Mangold shared a letter received from The Newtown Lions Club thanking Newtown Parks and Recreation for letting them sell tickets for the duck race at the carnival in June of 2021. (*Attachment #6*)
- Mr. Mangold also shared a letter received from Howard Lashers attorney regarding the amount he will be leaving for Newtown Parks and Recreation in his estate, which will be \$50,000 (*Attachment #7*). In honor of Mr. Lasher and the generous donations he has made over the years it is being discussed to name the driveway that goes through Dickinson Park, from Elm Drive to Brushy Hill Road, "Lasher Lane". The commission agreed it would be a great idea, as Mr. Lasher's donations have gone mostly to Dickinson Park and the day camp program there.
- Families United of Newtown (F.U.N) sent the department a thank you letter for letting them use Dickinson Park for their annual benefit concert on June 6th. (*Attachment #8*).
- Former commission member Patrick Barczak sent Ms. Mangold an email following up on park additions that he has seen at other parks and would be a great addition to Dickinson Park. (*Attachment #9 & #10*).

Chairman's Report:

Clinton DePaolo, Chairman Newtown Parks and Recreation

- Mr. Clinton DePaolo reminded everyone that budget season is coming up and to start thinking about anything the department may need.

- Mr. DePaolo also asked when the last time there was a staff appreciation of some kind. Due to COVID it had been a while but he hopes to do something sometime soon to thank the staff for all their hard work this summer.

Directors Report

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Amy Mangold has been working with Ms. Victoria Weimann and the sports organizations to get in surcharge and rosters for the fall season. They are making sure all organizations are operating according to Parks and Recreation guidelines. Ms. Mangold mentioned she has spent a lot of time addressing emailed in regards to the softball groups and has some FOI requests for the groups.
- Ms. Amy Mangold reported that fall programs are running and going well.
- Ms. Mangold also told commission members that she reached out to Rick Spreyer, the towns purchasing agent, to help get quotes for engineers to help create the best plan for the Dickinson Pavilion.
- The bicycle playground has been approved by the Fairfield Hills Authority and Ms. Mangold will be meeting with Planning and Zoning on November 4th
- All boats were removed from Eichler's Cove by the end of the season date of October 11. Ms. Mangold said they had a fantastic season and commended Ms. Rita Pavia-Loomis for her wonderful job communicating with staff and keeping everything running smoothly this season.
- In reflection of this summer, Ms. Mangold told how there has been lifeguards shortages towards the end of the summer due to school sports and going back to college. Mr. Aaron Britton asked if there were any repercussions to those who leave their contract early. Ms. Mangold said it is hard to when it is due to school activities, however those who chose to not work do have notes put on their evaluations to be looked at next season.
- Ms. Mangold said she should be receiving paperwork for budgeting before next meeting from Mr. Bob Tait in finance.

Assistant Director's Reports:

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- Ms. RoseAnn Reggiano shared that she will be having her Spooktacular Halloween party for kids on Wednesday, October 27th along with her annual Howl-O-Ween dog party on Saturday, October 30th (*Attachments #11 & #12*).
- The scarecrow lamppost contest is back this year at Fairfield Hills. So far there are 15 entries. All scarecrows should be up by October 25th. (*Attachment #13*).
- Ms. Reggiano reported that skateboard lessons started on 10/9 for a 5 week session with instructor Rich Beck. He worked with kids during the summer at Dickinson Day camp and did a great job. There was a great response with 19 kids registered from ages 4-15. Due to the popularity they will be doing another session in November and going to try to do a winter break week from 12/27 to 12/31.

- Torpedoes swim will be starting on 11/1, swim meets will be going on this year as well as the balcony will be open.
- Futsal and street soccer program ran at the end of September. There were 11 registered, the program was great.
- The Skyhawks volleyball clinic went well and had a good turn out with 11 registered, another session will hopefully be running in January.
- Ms. Reggiano also reported that they are preparing for winter and 2022 programs and the brochure should be out around 12/1.
- Working on fees for summer 2022 for next month's meeting.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

- See Attachments #14 & #15

Commissioners out and about:

Motions:

- **Acceptance of Minutes:** Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2021 commission meeting. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the acceptance of the minutes.
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- Commissioner David Payne made a motion for the amendment of the August 26, 2021 meeting minutes to change the first motion to specify that it was for the U16 team. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- **Acceptance of Minutes:** Commissioner Warren Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2021 commission meeting. Commissioner David Payne seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the acceptance of the minutes.

Adjournment of Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm

The next regular meeting is scheduled of Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the multi-purpose room located at 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT unless changed to virtual due to COVID restrictions.

Submitted by,

Victoria Weimann, Clerk



Victoria Weimann <victoria.weimann@newtown-ct.gov>

Fwd: Proposal for the Little Free Library**Amy Mangold** <amy.mangold@newtown-ct.gov>

Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 10:47 AM

To: Victoria Weimann <victoria.weimann@newtown-ct.gov>

Here you go. Thank you

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Melissa Houston** <melissa.g.houston@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 6:34 PM

Subject: Fwd: Proposal for the Little Free Library

To: <amy.mangold@newtown-ct.gov>

Hi Amy,

Attached is the proposal for the Little Free Library. I've also attached two photographs - one is of the front of the island we spoke about which could be a possible location for the Little Free Library and the other is of the bench where there is open space that could be a great location for the box as well.

Please do let me know if there are any questions. As I mentioned, Alex has offered to help with the placement of the Little Free Library and the Newtown Allies for Change have a project Scope & Sequence to make sure that the Little Free Library is well cared for.

Sincerely,
Melissa

NAFC Little Free Library Proposal P&R

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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!!!

2 attachments

PXL_20211008_213413490.jpg
4274K

PXL_20211008_213445260.jpg
5723K





October 12, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Melissa Houston and I serve as the Chair of the Learning Subcommittee for Newtown Allies for Change (NAFC). Our mission is to equip the group's members and the Newtown community with the tools and knowledge to seek racial justice by creating a common language, encouraging community accountability, and hosting educational opportunities for all ages, so that we can create advocates within our group who form community allies and spread our message of allyship and antiracism through the Newtown community.

Our subcommittee is working towards placing a Little Free Library (<https://littlefreelibrary.org/>) in our community as a learning opportunity for all of Newtown. A Little Free Library is a free book exchange where people are encouraged to take any book and leave any book. The books we'd use to keep the library full would focus on diversity and allyship. This is inline with the mission of NAFC and also supports the Little Free Library's *Read in Color* initiative which seeks to distribute books that "provide perspectives on racism and social justice; celebrate BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized voices; and incorporate experiences from all identities for all readers." (<https://littlefreelibrary.org/read-in-color/>)

NAFC would be responsible for supplying the books, keeping the library clean, and tracking the library's use. We have a sign up sheet that our members will use to check the box at least twice a month and monitor its use. The Learning Subcommittee has built the box and is committed to ensuring that the box is well constructed and securely placed. The location of the box, Treadwell Park, would simply need to supply the space for the box outside and allow people to freely come and participate in the book exchange. We would like to have it in place this fall with a possible public "grand opening" in November.

We have been in conversations with the C.H. Booth Library and Friends of the Library as well as the Newtown Rotary to create a well supported community effort so that we have a steady supply of books for the Little Free Library. The members of Newtown Allies for Change are very excited to participate in this community project and have already been donating books towards this effort.

Our hope is to place the library where there are few barriers to access and where people feel welcomed to participate. We know that Newtown Parks & Recreation strives to provide safe places for people of all ages and walks of life - a place where they can engage in health, wellness, creative opportunities, and personal growth. Treadwell has benches near the pools and the playgrounds where families could read together, books could be exchanged, and our community enriched. We feel that this partnership would directly support the work and mission of both Newtown Allies for Change and the Newtown Parks & Rec.

Please contact me either via email (melissa.g.houston@gmail.com) or by phone (~~860-610-6000~~) with any questions, comments, or concerns.

We look forward to hearing from you and partnering with you to grow our community!

Sincerely,
Melissa







We Serve

The Newtown Lions Club

Post Office Box 218, Newtown, Connecticut 06470-0218

Oct. 01, 2021

Newtown Parks & Rec
C/o Newtown Community Center
8 Simpson Street
Newtown, Ct. 06470
Attn: Amy Mangold

Thank you, on behalf of the Newtown Lions Club, for letting the lions sell raffle tickets for the Duck Race at the Parks & Recreation carnival during the summer of 2021.

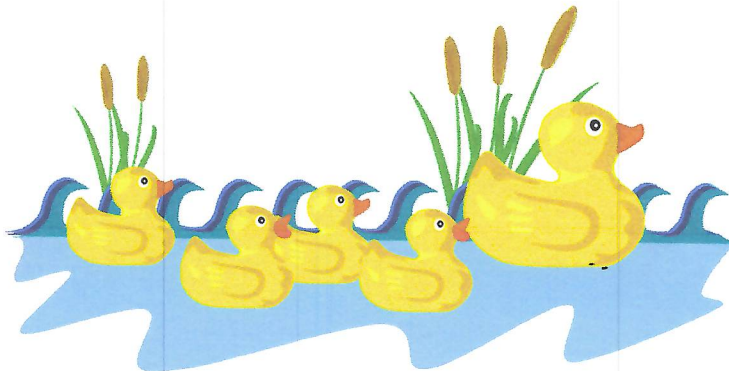
We had a very successful Duck Race event even though we couldn't dump the ducks, due to the high water level and also a large down tree that was in the river caused by Tropical Storm Ida earlier in the week. We are so grateful to you for helping us to succeed. We appreciate your support of our organization.

Thanks for always being there for Newtown!

Sincerely,

Kevin Corey

Kevin Corey
Duck Race Committee



RICKY J. WEISS, P.A.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

FLORIDA BAR BOARD CERTIFIED
IN
WILLS, TRUSTS AND ESTATES

5501 UNIVERSITY DRIVE #103
CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33067
(954) 757-1650
FAX: (954) 757-1851
E-Mail ricky@rickyjweiss.com
Web www.rickyjweiss.com

ADDITIONAL OFFICES:
AVENTURA
BOCA RATON
WESTON

September 14, 2021

Newtown Parks and Recreation
Camp Scholarship Fund
c/o Amy E.W. Mangold
3 Primrose Street,
Newtown, CT 06470

Re: Estate Planning for Howard Lasher

Dear Ms. Mangold:

I represent Howard Lasher with regards to his estate planning. Mr. Lasher has asked me to advise you that he has included your charitable organization to receive a gift in the amount of fifty thousand dollars as part of his estate plan.

His gift to your organization will take effect upon his death.

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Ricky J. Weiss

cc: Mr. Howard Lasher

Dear Amy,

On behalf of Families United in Newtown (F.U.N.), I want to thank you for your generous donation to F.U.N. by helping us with the planning of the program and allowing us to use the beautiful Dickinson Park for our Annual Benefit Concert on June 6th. Your support of the program is so greatly appreciated. There are never enough "Thank You's" to really express my gratitude... from the bottom of my heart, please know how thankful I am for you, your beautiful family and the Parks and Recreation program that you soooooo beautifully run! Much love to you!!!!

Thanks again!

Love, Linda





Caspendine

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

More park photos

1 message

Patrick Barczak <patrick.barczak@snet.net>

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

Sun, Sep 26, 2021 at 11:23 AM

Hi Amy,

As I noted before attached are two photos of the small Life Trail set-up at a park we go to. It has three pieces of equipment placed on a concrete pad that is roughly 20 ft x 60 ft. This one was donated by the local Rotary Club.

There is another park near our son's house in Webster, NY that has individual stations along a one mile trail that goes around a large pond.

Third picture is of the essentially completed park I told you about before which is across the street from the one with the small Life Trail grouping.

Hope these might be useful.

Regards,

Pat

Sent from my iPhone

3 attachments



IMG_0425.jpg
101K



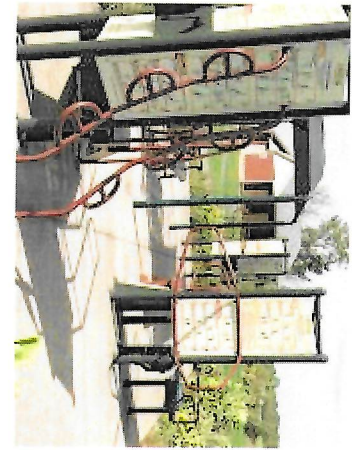
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Attachment # 9

Attachment #10



151K



IMG_0423.jpg
131K

Happy Halloween



SPOOKTACULAR FAMILY FUN EVENT
Wednesday, October 27; 5:30-7:30pm

**Join us for a spooky day filled with
activities for the whole family:**

**OBSTACLE COURSE • DJ PARTY • HAYRIDES
COSTUME CONTEST • PRIZES & MORE!**

Note: Last hayride departs at 6:45pm

Costume Categories:

**Family Look-A-Like / Scariest / Cutest / Most Creative / Funniest
Best Overall Winner takes home a pumpkin!**

You must pre-register for this event

Activity Code: 114102 A Ages: 3 & up Fee: \$5 per person

Location: Community Center Multipurpose Room, 8 Simpson Street

Sponsored by Newtown Parks and Recreation Department
8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT 06470

To Register:

Call 203-270-4340 or visit <https://www.newtown-ct.gov/parks-recreation>



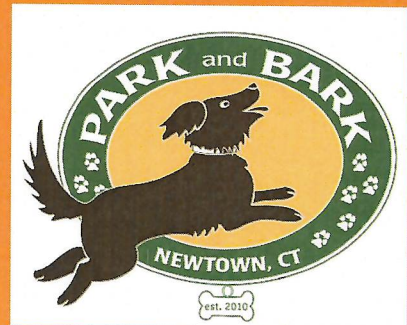


11th Annual
HOWL-O-WEEN DOG PARTY
 To benefit Newtown's Park and Bark Dog Park
Saturday, October 30
11am-1pm

Games • Raffles • Prizes

Costume Contest

- Scariest
- Most Original
- Cutest
- K-9 Human Look-a-Like
- Best in Show



Register in advance or on the day of the event:

Activity Code: 114104 A

Fee: \$10 per dog

Location: Park & Bark Dog Park

To Register:

Call 203-270-4340 or visit <https://www.newtown-ct.gov/parks-recreation>

Sponsored by Newtown Park & Bark/Newtown Parks and Recreation Department
 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT 06470





Newtown Parks and Recreation & Newtown Economic and Community Development Present the 2nd Annual Scarecrow Contest

(Location: Fairfield Hills Lamp Posts)

- Individuals, families, businesses, sports teams and organizations are invited to participate
- Adopt a Fairfield Hills lamp post of your choice during the month of October, first-come, first-served
- \$25 adoption fee
- Build your own unique scarecrow and affix it to your adopted lamp post (come in to pick up your #)
- You can begin putting up your scarecrow from October 4 - October 25
- All scarecrows need to be completely up by October 25th
- Community is invited to vote on their favorite scarecrow
- Voting takes place during the week of October 26-29. Winner will be announced on October 30th
- Winners have a chance to win a family pool/beach membership for Summer 2022 or assorted tier prizes donated by local businesses

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: October 12, 2021

RE: Monthly park update and field report

We continue to transition from summer to fall/winter tasks including winterization of facilities as well as seasonal cultural practices such as aerating, overseeding and pruning. Victoria continues to map assets within our park system. We also marked out and painted a flag football field for St. Rose.

Dickinson Park: The privet hedge was hedged along the parking lot sidewalk. Regular field grooming and mowing continues here. We met a structural engineer here who submitted a cost estimate for a full analysis of the current pavilion structure. The skate park fence repairs have been completed here.

Newtown Middle School: Fall sports continue here. We have had to pump field here numerous times in the past month due to excessive rain.

Orchard Hill: No new news here.

Lake Lillinonah: No new news here.

Oakview: regular mowing and lining here continues. The bank between the field and road has been cut as well.

Tilson Field: All of the promised field repair has been completed here. We have started clearing brush away from the fence and will be cutting the hill here as well.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: A small repair was completed by field turf on some lines coming up here. Fall sports are in full swing.

Glander Fields: All three fields have been aerated here. Fall sports are in full swing here as

well.

Attachment #

Liberty Fields: Both fields here have been aerated. Regular grooming and mowing continues.

Walnut Tree: The fencing repairs here have been completed.

Fairfield Hills: We have installed 5 benches on campus including two at Tammys Garden. We installed the garden plaque as well. We have started the pickleball court renovations here. The new fencing is in around one set of courts and some of the new net post anchors have been installed. We anticipate crack filling and sealing in the next two weeks.

NHS Fields: All of these fields have been aerated and overseeded. Regular mowing and grooming continues here. We completed landscaping around the new scoreboard at Blue and Gold Stadium and painted field hockey lines on the new field.

Sandy Hook School: No new news here.

Hawley School Fields: The bleachers were removed from the high grass areas for football. Weekly lining mowing and grooming will continue here through the fall.

Eichlers Cove Marina: Dock removal has begun and lifeguard chairs and equipment has been stored for the season. We installed a recycled flag pole here which looks great.

Dog Park: The Girl Scouts dog ball baskets have been installed along the fence. The water features here will be winterized soon.

Treadwell Park: The pool is now covered for the season and all of the deck equipment has been removed and stored. We completed playground pressure washing and safety fiber replacement.

Pole Bridge Preserve: No new news here

Watertown Field: These fields are in full swing for fall ball and are in good shape. Regular grooming mowing and lining will continue through the season.

Staff:

- 160 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1440 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 11.5% loss in workforce.