

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held an in-person meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 with an opportunity for public participation, at the Newtown Teen Center, 53 Church Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clinton DePaolo at 6:03pm.

Present: Clinton DePaolo, David Payne, Jim Parker, Aaron Britton, Vincent Yanni

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson

Absent: Warren Spencer, Rance Thompson, RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: June Cash & family, Charles Zukowski

Public Participation:

- June Cash, Girl Scout Cadette Troop 50764

Ms. Cash stated that she is currently working on her Silver Award and would like to build a Sports Equipment Chest at Dickinson Park. The concept is that the chest would hold a variety of balls for sports, baseball bats and toys for the sandbox. The idea would be that people could use what they need, take what they need, put back what they don't need and/or donate additional items. She will get the chest started with some donations of items.

Ms. Cash surveyed the park for a good location and prepared measurements for the chest. She shared a sketch with the measurements with the Commissioners.

Ms. Cash is looking into different types of wood to find the most suitable. Mr. Samuelson recommended that a type of wood be used that can be painted as needed as there might be some graffiti/vandalism that occurs. A discussion ensued as to whether it might be painted white which Ms. Cash suggested would enable campers or other children to leave painted handprints or other decorations as part of the design.

Some locations Ms. Cash suggested are as follows: inside the gates of the basketball court in the sidelines, between the Gaga Pit and basketball court or behind the memorial bench that stands near Gaga Pit. The consensus was that between the Gaga Pit and the basketball court was the best placement.

Mr. Samuelson and Ms. Mangold suggested we omit bats from the chest so that they do not lead to vandalism. All agreed upon this.

Signage should state the intent and the rules of the equipment chest. Ms. Cash can use the lending library signage as an example. Signage verbiage should be submitted to Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson.

Ms. Cash's deadline for the project is September 30, 2023.

Mr. DePaolo stated that this is a fantastic idea and that Ms. Cash should work with Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson to see this project to fruition.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Mr. Yanni made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting. Mr. Britton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Britton made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2023 meeting. Mr. Yanni seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business:

- **Bicycle Playground**

Mr. DePaolo stated that the opening was quite the event with a fantastic turnout (despite being held on the rain date). He congratulated Ms. Mangold on the wonderful event she arranged. He also stated that Paula, Brad, Amy and Carl did a fantastic job in bringing this project to completion.

Ms. Mangold stated that the signage for Bicycle Playground parking has been improved upon and signage was also increased.

The Newtown Bee did an exemplary job in getting the word out about the Bicycle Playground. The Redding Sentinel also included an article in their July 6, 2023 edition.

A Rules Board is present on the Bicycle Playground site.

Mr. Yanni inquired where the Bike Share bicycles are located. Ms. Mangold explained that they are now located on the Bicycle Playground and are locked. They are stored in the maintenance garage during the winter. Mr. Brad Accettella provided a new fleet of bikes.

Ms. Mangold thanked the Commission for their support on this project.

- **Dickinson Pavilion Repair**

Mr. Samuelson stated that the project is substantially complete. Once camp is over, there are a few items which need to be finished. Temporary lighting is set up for pavilion rentals. We are awaiting a bathroom budget from the contractor and will get a couple of other bids. The bathroom repair was far more involved than when initially surveyed. Instead of requiring merely a roof repair, a structural roof replacement will need to be executed. The structure is 24-25 years old.

The color choice works well & looks bright.

Mr. Samuelson relayed that with the removal of the camp room, the breeze flows much more freely through the pavilion.

- **Capital Improvement Plan**

The following items are included in the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan):

1. Fairfield Hills Pickleball Courts
2. Teen Center Renovation
3. Lake Lillinonah Park Improvements
4. Treadwell Park Playground Replacement
5. Maintenance Yard Abatement
6. Treadwell Artificial Turf & Lighting
7. Fairfield Hills Trail Phase 3
8. Rail Trail Monroe to Newtown
9. Dickinson Park Water Playground
10. Duplex/Plymouth Hall Renovation Mediation
11. Dickinson Playground Replacement
12. Treadwell Pavilion Replacements

13. Irrigation Infrastructure Replacement
14. Dickinson Playground Artificial Turf & Equipment

Ms. Mangold presented each of the above items and they were discussed. A report will be prepared for the next Commission meeting and voted upon.

New Business

- **Park Vandalism**

Mr. Samuelson reported that half of the security cameras were removed from the old police building at 3 Main Street and we have also has been able to purchase new cameras. By the fall, we will have 8-10 cameras in the pool area and surrounding the pavilion at Treadwell Park.

Mr. David Payne suggested cameras for the park entrance and exits. Mr. Samuelson responded that the park will be secured with cameras in phases.

Mr. Samuelson stated that the police have been far more responsive.

Correspondence:

The Director of Health sent a memo to Ms. Mangold, Mr. Samuelson and Robert Sibley (Director of Land Use) regarding Blue Green Algae Bloom report from CT DEEP. Helpful information and suggestions were included in the memo. Ms. Mangold contacted The Friends of the Lake and learned that they monitor Lake Lillinonah carefully and their test results showed that there was no algae bloom.

Pat Barzak, former Newtown Parks and Recreation Commissioner, congratulated the entire Parks and Recreation team on the Bicycle Playground.

Rebecca Hall followed up on her request for speed limit signs, directional flow arrows, speed bumps and more for Treadwell Park. A discussion ensued. Mr. Samuelson is working on a method which is used by Parks and Recreations counterparts in other towns and will be implementing this as soon as the budget is available.

Two members of the public wrote to the Parks and Recreation about their positive experience with Pavilion rentals.

Ms. Mangold received a letter of thanks from the recipient of the Lee Davenson Memorial Scholarship.

Correspondence is attached.

Chairman's Report:

Nothing additional to report.

Director's Report:

Mr. Samuelson will be holding a Parks Field Day on August 9, 2023. This event has been held for 13-14 years and has always been a well-attended event with many informative vendors.

Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson took a long tour of baseball fields with Newtown Babe Ruth Baseball. The organization has many plans they'd like to implement.

Summer has been hot with much rain but we have managed to avoid cancellations due to fortunate timing of the inclement weather. Camps and activities are all doing well. The staff is wonderful – great success with lifeguards, counselors, wardens, office staff and maintainers.

We continue to hear much from the Pickleball enthusiasts in the community. Ms. Mangold stated that she and Mr. Samuelson will be meeting with a group spearheaded by Bill Manfredonia to discuss next steps for new courts.

The summer concert series has been a hit and we've had cooperative weather. Kate Geerer is doing a wonderful job managing the concerts. Friends of Newtown Seniors have been holding a picnic prior to each concert along with the Newtown Senior Center which held a concert last week for the July 4 holiday.

Assistant Director's Report:

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation

Presented by Ms. Amy Mangold

Our Senior Spring Fling which was held together with the Newtown Senior Center took place on May 19 and was a huge success with 70 seniors in attendance. Dinner was prepared by the Newton High School Culinary Group.

Strutt Your Mutt was held on the rain date of May 21 with 30-40 dogs and their families in attendance. We thank our Great Dane sponsors, Pleasant Paws Pet Center and Mt. Pleasant Hospital for Animal, and our Labradoodle Sponsor – Coast to Coast Dog Treats.

The pool at Treadwell Park and Eichler's Cove Beach opened on Memorial Day Weekend. Our new credit card scanner is working well. Revenue totaling \$420 was brought in during the opening weekend. Treadwell Pool had a total of 166 visitors and Eichler's Cove Beach had 65 visitors.

The first day of Day Camp was Monday, June 19 and camp is going strong. As of today, we have 506 campers registered at Dickinson Day Camp and 888 registered at Treadwell Day Camp for the summer.

Teen Travel Adventure Camp runs for 6 weeks from the end of June through the month of July and we have 50-60 campers registered each week. Our new Site Director, Britney Accettella, is performing wonderfully in her first year.

Other specialty camps and sports camps are doing well.

We have a wonderful summer staff who is doing an awesome job.

We have brought on two additional goose patrol dogs for Eichler's Cove Beach.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks

The past month has continued to be very busy. We are down staff and as typical have a lot of our team taking summer vacations. Spring sports are winding down and travel seasons are beginning. We spent a lot of time completing items at the bicycle playground as well as getting ready for camp. The pavilion is substantially complete but need a few items to be finished. We finished up the rest of our seasonal mulching and are focusing on projects away from camp activities. Set up and breakdown for the Rooster Run was also completed.

Dickinson Park:

The pavilion renovation project is substantially complete with a few items to button up once camp is over. We scrambled a bit to get work done here and we have to finalize lighting as well as water access. We built a wall inside the old garage for storage and camp room duties since the old camp room was removed as part of the pavilion project. We are working on bathroom options/budgets options for the fall.

Newtown Middle School:

Regular mowing and grooming continue here.

Orchard Hill:

The gate here was hit at some point and will require repair.

Lake Lillinonah:

Now that it is a new fiscal year we will be ordering the new guardrail to replace the rotted one that fell for fall installation. Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Oakview:

Spring soccer is over and we are waiting on the entrance to be paved as part of the exit 11 project.

Tilson Field:

No new news here.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball:

Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Glander Fields:

The new flagpole was installed here and the light towers were moved back to Hawley. Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Liberty Fields:

Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Walnut Tree:

Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Fairfield Hills:

The Bicycle Playground was completed prior to opening, but the delayed opening allowed us to get a few details completed as well. The Pickleball area was cut for ball retrieval. The seasonal invasive areas were also cut prior to a machine failure.

NHS Fields:

Regular mowing continues and a few irrigation items are being corrected.

Sandy Hook School:

Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Hawley School Fields:

No new items here.

Eichlers Cove Marina:

Things are going well here. Regular grooming and mowing continue. The garage door is scheduled for repair as well.

Dog Park:

Things seem to be going well here. Regular mowing continues.

Treadwell Park:

The pools have kept us busy with various issues. We rebuilt the backflow preventer that supplies water to Treadwell from Sandy Hook School. We are struggling with a 12 year old vacuum for the pool which no longer works automatically. The current unit only operates in manual mode. Our chlorinators and filter system is also showing its age with many electrical gremlins.

Pole Bridge Preserve:
No new items.

Watertown Field:
Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Staff Hours:
336 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1760 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 19% loss in workforce.

Commissioners Out & About:

Mr. Yanni inquired about the vacuum at Treadwell Pool. Mr. Samuelson reported that the vacuum has to be rebuilt every 4 years and is mostly manually operated by staff as automatic operation is no longer working properly. Will make this a priority after the summer is over.

Mr. Yanni inquired about the Orchard Hill Gate – Ranger could not close the gate as it must have been backed into by a vehicle.

Mr. Parker inquired about the plexiglass station build on the Fairfield Hills Campus by a scout group. Mr. Samuelson stated it was originally intended to be a cell phone charging station. Flyers and announcements can be posted there.

Mr. Yanni's son is attending day camp this summer – added a second week after he enjoyed the first week. He is having a blast. Mr. Yanni has been impressed with the staff.

Adjournment of Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Respectfully submitted by,
Jennifer Balbes, Clerk

Newtown Health District
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, CT 06470
Tel. (203) 270-4291
health.district@newtown-ct.gov



Newtown Health District
*serving the towns of
Bridgewater, Newtown
and Roxbury*

NEWTOWN DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

To: Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation
Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director/Parks
Robert Sibley, Director of Land Use

From: Donna M. Culbert, Director of Health

Date: July 11, 2023

Re: Blue Green Algae Bloom report from CT DEEP, 7/11/23

The Newtown Health District received notification from CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH), that CT DEEP (CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) was notified of a blue green algal bloom in the vicinity of Lake Lillinoah (Pond Brook) Boat Launch. The extent of the algal bloom had not been determined.

CT DEEP plans to post an advisory sign at the boat launch.

When a blue-green algae bloom is reported, as reported to the Health District as recently observed near the Pond Brook Boat Launch on Lake Lillinoah

THE FOLLOWING IS ADVISED:

Be alert and avoid skin contact with water that:

- **Looks like spilled paint**
- **Has surface scums, mats or films**
- **Is discolored or has colored streaks**
- **Has green globs floating below the surface**

Skin contact with algae contaminated water can cause irritation or rashes. If people or pets come into contact with water, promptly shower or rinse off in uncontaminated water. Swallowing algae contaminated water can result in diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea. Seek medical attention if you feel you have been exposed to blue green algae and are having adverse health effects.

For more information on Blue Green Algae Blooms, visit:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/Water-Quality/Blue-Green-Algae-Blooms>

6/20/23, 2:08 PM

To: -f Newtown Mail - Congratulations!



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

Congratulations!

1 message

Patrick Barczak <patrick.barczak@snet.net>

Tue, Jun 20, 2023 at 12:19 PM

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

Hi Amy;

Hope you and your team are well! Wanted to reach out to you and say congratulations on getting the bike playground in place at FFH campus. Pictures in the last Bee I received looked really Cool! Please say Hi for me to everyone in the office and any Commissioners still there from my time there. Keep up the good work and glad you guys gave me a subscription to the Bee when I left!

Regards,
Pat

Patrick Barczak
patrick.barczak@snet.net
203-807-6054

www.linkedin.com/in/pmbarczak2591

6/12/23, 8:44 AM

Town of Newtown - Mail - Fwd: Treadwell Park



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

Fwd: Treadwell Park

1 message

Rebecca Hall <hallrebecca1978@gmail.com>

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

Thu, Jun 8, 2023 at 6:40 PM

Hello,

I am following up on the below. Can we please get speed limit signs and arrows or speed bumps or all over there? I like directly across the st and know how busy the park is daily. It has gotten incredibly dangerous.

Thank you!

Best,
Rebecca Hall

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebecca Hall <hallrebecca1978@gmail.com>

Date: June 7, 2023 at 8:19:20 AM EDT

To: Amy Mangold <amy.mangold@newtown-ct.gov>, Roseann Reggiano <roseann.reggiano@newtown-ct.gov>

Subject: Treadwell Park

Hi! I am writing this as not only a soccer club board member but more so as a parent and resident.

Treadwell park has become increasingly dangerous to be in. I sent an email or two last spring regarding this.

Cars are flying people are getting flipped off when confronting said speeders and it is now even a thread topic on newtown neighbors unite on Facebook.

How do we get

1. Speed limit signs
2. Arrows on the pavement showing the flow of traffic
3. Possible speed bumps
4. Even comes with speed limit signs or arrows
5. Enforcement

I notice there is a speed limit sign on the fence for Tilson but there really needs to be some more through out the park. It's dangerous and only a matter of time before someone gets hurt adult or child.

Academic Architect is feeling grateful at Fairfield Hills Campus.

1d · Newtown, CT ·

Thank you so much **Newtown Parks and Recreation** for being so consultative and suggesting the pavilion at Fairfield Hills for our senior shirt celebration (with guest appearances from some of our fab Newtown alumni college students). The location was perfect with ample parking for the seniors that were able to make it. A special thank you to the friendly dad who stepped away from his kids baseball game to take the group photos.



Although I've walked the grounds many times, I didn't realize this was available as an option to residents. Everyone at Parks and Rec was so friendly and the space worked out perfectly for our needs. 🧡💛💙





<Treadwell Pavilion>

Jennifer Balbes <jennifer.balbes@newtown-ct.gov>

Re: Pavilion Rental

1 message

Eliot A Lora <eliot.lora@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 19, 2023 at 3:32 PM

To: Jennifer Balbes <jennifer.balbes@newtown-ct.gov>

Good Afternoon Jennifer,

The \$50.00 deposit was just credited. Thank you!

On another note; my family came from NJ and NY to celebrate with us. They enjoyed the park and the pavilion very much... I appreciate such a prompt response with the short notice I provided. Look forward to renting the facility in the future...

On Tue, Apr 11, 2023 at 6:53 AM Eliot A Lora <eliot.lora@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning Jennifer,

My wife and I went to take another look at the Pavilion and it is perfect for what we are looking for. For picking up the garbage, I saw plenty of trash cans however we could not locate a dumpster like the permit outlines. Do you happen to know where the dumpster is located? Also, will the restrooms be available/unlocked?

Other than that, everything is perfect. See attached application. Please give me a call at 201-669-6999 so I can provide my Credit Card number for payment.

Talk to you soon...

On Mon, Apr 10, 2023 at 12:38 PM Eliot A Lora <eliot.lora@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you Jennifer. I'll take a look at it tonight with my wife to make sure that it works for her plans. I will let you know as soon as she gives me the OK. I already filled in all the paperwork.

Call/email you tomorrow morning.

On Mon, Apr 10, 2023 at 12:26 PM Jennifer Balbes <jennifer.balbes@newtown-ct.gov> wrote:

Dear Eliot,

As per our conversation, I am holding Treadwell Pavilion for you for April 16. Please let me know tomorrow whether you are moving forward with the rental. You can email your completed application to me at this email address. Please make sure to fill in all of the fields and sign where required.

Regards,
Jennifer

--

Jennifer Balbes
Secretary
Newtown Parks and Recreation
8 Simpson Street
Newtown, CT 06470
203-270-4340
jennifer.balbes@newtown-ct.gov
Newtown Parks and Recreation Website
Newtown Parks and Recreation Facebook

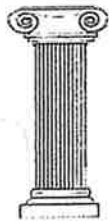
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Eliot A Lora



Amy Mangold,

Thank you so much for granting me the Lee Davenson Memorial Scholarship for the 2023-2024 school year. This money will help fund my education at Fordham University in the Bronx, New York; and although I'm an undecided major right now, I can't wait to pursue a subject that excites me, like communications, political science, or even graphic design. Thank you so much, this scholarship goes a long way! -Cate Dalton



**THE
NEWTOWN
SCHOLARSHIP
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

~ Established 1937 ~

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NewtownScholarship.org

[Facebook.com / Newtown
Scholarship](https://www.facebook.com/NewtownScholarship)

May 18, 2023

Newtown Parks & Recreation
8 Simpson Street
Newtown, CT 06470

Dear Newtown Parks & Recreation,

Please accept this correspondence as an invitation to join the Newtown Scholarship Association (NSA) Board of Governors at our annual reception honoring the 2023 high school graduate scholarship recipients. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Newtown Community Center. We hope that you can attend the event as our guest.

The NSA was established in 1937 with a vision to make college more affordable for the town's high school graduates. Our Awards Committee has just approved a budget of \$300,000 for this year in support for 165 students from Newtown, including more than 70 from the class of 2023.

We would like to demonstrate our gratitude and appreciation for your support of NSA. We can think of no better way than to have you personally meet some of this year's scholarship recipients. Getting to know these young people and hearing their plans and dreams is always an affirmative occasion for the NSA Awards Committee. We hope that you would like to participate in the reception and to see first-hand how impactful your financial support is to these young students.

Kindly contact Margaret McCarthy to advise if you can attend or not. She can be reached by phone at 203-470-1022 or via email at mcc1234@sbcglobal.net. Please note that this event is designed to be one of appreciation; there will be no fundraising involved.

Best regards,

Ted Kohler
President, Newtown Scholarship Association