

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held an in-person meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 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 6:04pm.

Present: Clinton DePaolo, Warren Spencer, David Payne, Aaron Britton, Vincent Yanni

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano

Absent: Rance Thompson, Jim Parker

Public: No members of the public were in attendance.

Public Participation:

There was no public participation.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Mr. Yanni made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 11, 2023 meeting. Mr. Payne seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business:

- **Capital Improvement Plan**

The following items are included in the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan), were discussed and agreed upon:

Item#	Capital Item	Year	Project Cost-Total/Bonded
1	Irrigation Infrastructure Replacement	2025/2026	\$350,000/\$350,000
2	Dickinson Playground Artificial Turf	2025/2026	\$385,000/\$250,000
3	Fairfield Hills Pickleball	2027/2028	\$650,000/\$350,000
4	Teen Center Renovation	2026/2027	\$350,00/\$300,000
5	Lake Lillinonah Park Improvements	2024/2025	\$500,000
6	Treadwell Artificial Turf Replacement/Lights	2026/2027	\$1,100,000/\$250,000
7	Maintenance Yard Abatement	2026/2027	\$650,000/\$650,000
8	Fairfield Hills Trail Phase 3	2027/2028	\$350,000/\$250,000
9	Rail Trail Monroe to Newtown	2026/2027	\$1,400,000
10	Dickinson Park Water Playground	2028/2029	\$1,000,000/\$800,000
11	Duplex/Plymouth Hall Renovation Remediation	2030/2031	\$10,000,000/\$9,000,000
12	Treadwell Pavilion Replacement	2031/2032	\$1,000,000/\$1,000,000
13	Dickinson Playground Replacement	2032/2033	\$1,000,000/\$800,000
14	Treadwell Pool Replacement/Expansion	2033/2034	\$5,000,000/\$4,000,000

Debt Holiday: 2024/2025 & 2029/2030

Please see attached chart for full synopsis

Ms. Mangold and Mr. DePaolo presented each of the above items and they were discussed and agreed upon.

Mr. Yanni introduced a motion to discuss the CIP. Further discussion with questions and answers ensued.

Mr. DePaolo introduced a motion to adopt the CIP as last read and for presentation to the First Selectman. All were in favor.

New Business

- **Camp Swim Treadwell Pool**

David Payne introduced discussion regarding closure of Treadwell Pool to the public from 1-2pm during Summer Day Camp (reserved swim time for Dickinson & Treadwell Day Campers). It was explained that this hour break came about during the Covid pandemic when pool patronage was limited. Before Covid, we received complaints from the public regarding the approximately 125 day campers who were relegated to two lanes and sometimes affected the public's experience. The hour closure was kept on as it provided a better experience for all involved.

Also, for example, this year 60% of the day campers were unable to swim on their own and required the full attention of all lifeguards. Lifeguards also were tasked to assist campers with life vests, hold 20 minute buddy checks and walking the deck.

When Day Camp holds a field trip and many campers are off-site, the pool is sometimes kept open to the public from 1-2pm.

Commissioners and Staff discussed Ms. Diane Sarna, Waterfront Director, as an incredible asset. She keeps everything in order the pool & beach and has earned the respect of the public.

Correspondence:

Mr. Samuelson relayed that two people reached out about how wonderful the new Bicycle Playground is.

Chairman's Report:

Mr. DePaolo inquired if we will be having the carnival this summer. Ms. Reggiano stated that she waits to hear from the carnival company but they did not reach out this year because last year's carnival in Newtown was not cost efficient for them. Amy would like to reach out to the carnival company in advance this year to ascertain if we can schedule a date for next summer.

Director's Report:

We have the last week of Day Camp coming up. Ms. Reggiano and the staff have been amazing. Diane Sarna, Waterfront Director, is exceptional and a valuable member of the team. Due to Ms. Sarna's work, the lifeguard/waterfront staff now feel like a family.

Ms. Reggiano meet with the group of Pickleball enthusiasts who want to work towards improved Pickleball Courts on the Fairfield Hills Campus. Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson met with the same group at a later time and had a productive discussion during which they presented pricing, location options and relayed the importance of fundraising.

Ms. Mangold attended a CRPA (CT Recreation and Parks Association) Quarterly Meeting for Directors in Middletown, CT. Participants discussed navigating the political system, an area in which Newtown feels very supported! They also toured the Middletown facility.

The National Night Out was a great event. Ms. Mangold was present at the new Bicycle Playground which many people took advantage of. Use of the Bike Share program has significantly increased since the bicycle playground opened.

Newtown Parks and Recreation is currently seeking and interviewing for a new Parks Maintainer.

The Newtown Teen Center will be hosting 3-4 bands for ages 16 or 17 & over. This is the first band activity in some years and Ms. Mangold reported that she is most enthusiastic about this development. A police officer will be hired for this event. This event will be "substance-free."

Assistant Director's Report:**RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation**

Teen Travel Adventure Camp was hugely successful this summer and had 270 participants, the highest level of participation since its inception. Ms. Reggiano was able to procure two buses for the last 3 weeks of camp. She collected surveys and all but one were positive. The only negative feedback is an air-conditioned bus is needed and that the return to camp not be made during rush hour.

A survey has been sent to Day Camp parents.

Ms. Reggiano relayed that one of the new camps we held, Incrediflix (movie making) was a big hit. They produced very cute videos.

Ms. Reggiano sent the Newtown Bee our camp schedule and as such, The Bee visited many of the camps and featured them in the newspaper.

We have our Outdoor Movie Night with Luca coming up on Wednesday, August 9 at dusk.

A Lifeguard Appreciation Party will be held on Sunday, August 13 at Treadwell Pool. The lifeguards were an exceptional group this summer. Mr. DePaolo commented that they were highly engaged with children at the pool this year. Ms. Reggiano mentioned that staff meetings were held weekly so that everyone would be on the same page.

The acceptance of credit cards at the pool gate has been an asset and is resulting in additional revenue.

The fall brochure will be published by September 1.

Ms. Reggiano relayed that she is working with NYBA (Newtown Youth Basketball Association) for their school-year activities. She met with the NYBA Board and it was decided that Renee of NYBA would continue in her role as contact with RoseAnn.

Mr. Yanni inquired about using Newtown buses (Allstar). Ms. Reggiano explained that after trying Allstar, it became clear that STA offers better pricing and flexibility.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks

The past month has been very busy. A lot of pruning at the SHPM took place as well as weeding and repairs after heavy rain. We have the chlorinator and filter system working well also.

We are hosting our annual field day tomorrow and have over 180 attendees registered for the event.

Dickinson Park The pavilion roof is complete but we will be completing the electrical and lighting work now that camp is over. We have implemented a deep clean from camp surrounding the pavilion. The heavy duty snow guard has been installed and looks great except that it occasionally catches a ball. The softball field lips have been removed.

Newtown Middle School: We weeded and lipped the baseball and softball field in preparation of fall sports. Fall fertility has been applied. Regular mowing and grooming continue here.

Orchard Hill: A fallen tree has been removed from the Orchard hill side. Some more pruning remains.

Lake Lillinonah: No new news here.

Oakview: Fall fertility has been applied and regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Tilson Field: The field was verti-topped (a deep-cleaning process that redistributes the crumb rubber and removes hair, lint and other debris).

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: Treadwell soccer was verti-topped. Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Glander Fields: The fields have been fertilized. We will be prepping Glander 2 for sod next week. Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Liberty Fields: Both fields have been lipped. Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Walnut Tree: Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Fairfield Hills: Regular campus maintenance has been ongoing. A few Pickleball nets have been vandalized. The fencing came in for the Pickleball courts, which will be installed next week.

NHS Fields: Blue and Gold has been verti-topped. All of the natural fields have been fertilized in anticipation of fall sports.

Sandy Hook School: Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Hawley School Fields: Hawley 1 has been stripped and prepped for sod. We assisted the BOE in the playground removal here to prep for the new playground. Regular mowing continues here.

Eichlers Cove Marina: The hill between the parking lots has been cleaned up to improve visibility.

Dog Park: No new news here, regular mowing and maintenance continue here.

Treadwell Park: The pools are both running well. Our 10 year old vacuum has been giving us trouble which requires manually vacuuming of the pool. Components to repair our vacuum are no longer available. A comparable replacement is around \$13,000.

Pole Bridge Preserve: No new news.

Watertown Field: All three fields have been lipped for the fall season. Fall fertility was also applied here.

320 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1760 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 18.5 % loss in workforce.

Commissioners Out & About:

Commissioners commented that WiFi had been installed in the Teen Center.

Adjournment of Meeting:

Mr. Yanni made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Britton seconded the motion.

Mr. DePaolo declared the meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Respectfully submitted by,
Jennifer Balbes, Clerk

Town of Newtown
Department CIP Summary Worksheet
For the Five Fiscal Years 2024/2025 to 2028/2029 with an Additional Five Years for Informational Purposes

DEPARTMENT:		PROJECT COST - TOTAL / BONDED										
Item #	Capital Item	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	2030/2031	2031/2032	2032/2033	2033/2034	
Item # 1	Irrigation Infrastructure Replacement	-	350,000 350,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 2	Dickinson Playground Artificial Turf	-	385,000 250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 3	Fairfield Hills Pickleball	-	-	-	650,000 350,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 4	Teen Center Renovation	-	-	350,000 300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 5	Lake Lillironah Park Improvements	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 6	Treadwell Artificial Turf Replacement/Lights	-	-	1,100,000 250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 7	Maintenance Yard Abatement	-	-	650,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 8	Fairfield Hills Trail Phase 3	-	-	-	350,000 250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 9	Railtrail Monroe to Newtown	-	-	1,400,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 10	Dickinson Park Water Playground	-	-	-	-	1,000,000 800,000	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 11	Duplex/Plymouth Hall Renovation/Remediation	-	-	-	-	-	10,000,000	-	-	-	-	
Item # 12	Treadwell Pavilion Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	-	-	
Item # 13	Dickinson Playground Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	-	
Item # 14	Treadwell Pool Replacement/Expansion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000,000	
Item # 15		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 16		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 17		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Item # 18		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
= debt holiday		500,000	735,000 600,000	3,500,000 1,200,000	1,000,000 600,000	1,000,000 800,000		10,000,000 #VALUE!	1,000,000 1,000,000	1,000,000 800,000	5,000,000 4,000,000	
TOTAL COST OF ALL PROJECTS												
TOTAL TO BE BONDED												