

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held an in-person meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 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 6:01pm.

Present: Clinton DePaolo, Warren Spencer, Aaron Britton, Jim Parker

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson

Absent: Rance Thompson, David Payne, Vincent Yanni, Rose Ann Reggiano

Public: Jan Brown, Bruce Goulart, Bill Manfredonia

Public Participation:

Jan Brown of 15 Lori Lynn Circle, Newtown, thanked Newtown Parks and Recreation for so quickly replacing the Pickleball nets that were vandalized. She also thanks NPR for waiting to bring nets down until Friday afternoon in advance of weekend events and leaving the nets up Friday mornings. Mr. Samuelson responded that we will continue leave the nets in place on Friday mornings for the three events annually which require nets to be dismantled for the weekend.

Bill Manfredonia of 18 Monitor Hill, Newtown, provided accolades for the removal of poison ivy from the perimeter of the Pickleball courts. As a result, nobody was affected this year. He stated that he was impressed with the work Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson have done with research and suggestions for the proposed new Pickleball courts. Mr. Manfredonia attended the meeting tonight in order to request that Newtown Parks and Recreation authorize a feasibility study for the proposed new courts in Newtown. He relayed that based on his research thus far, a feasibility study will be important particularly as a proposed location is required for grant applications and by other potential funding sources.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Acceptance of August 8, 2023 Minutes will take place at the next meeting on October 10, 2023.

Old Business:

- **Capital Improvement Plan Update**

Mr. DePaolo stated that he, Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson met today with Dan Rosenthal, First Selectman, to discuss the CIP.

Mr. Rosenthal was concerned about the costs for Pickleball courts and Dickinson Park playground. He would like the Pickleball project to be funded without bonded money, therefore moving the project a year earlier than proposed. This modified start date would move Dickinson Park playground improvements to one year later than originally proposed. The Pickleball project must be approved by the end of 2024 and concluded by the end of 2026 in order to align with ARPA funding. This timing will also provide financial savings as the Playground turf costs can be bundled together with other turf projects in the same year (Dickinson Park playground/artificial turf).

New Business

- **Feasibility Update for Pickleball on P&R Campus Masterplan**

Mr. DePaolo stated that a meeting will be necessary with the Fairfield Hills Authority. Eight courts are being considered. We need to have a location in order to move forward, hence the need for a feasibility study. Historic designation on the Fairfield Hills Campus will most likely not affect Pickleball court location. Mr. Samuelson is concerned with associated parking and relayed that we need a spot that does not have a commercial footprint. He also stated that we need the historical designation information in order to move forward with a location for courts and parking.

During the meeting with the First Selectman, Ms. Mangold requested that a feasibility study take place and expressed the necessity in order to secure funding and grants. Mr. DePaola added that a feasibility study will paint a picture for the location as well as show scale for the proposed courts.

Ms. Mangold raised the topic of the disc-golf course planned at Treadwell Park. ARPA had \$40,000 outlined as a potential project. Ms. Mangold relayed that she held off on starting this project as it abuts the Sandy Hook Memorial and she did not want the course to negatively affect the memorial. She has now met with Tricia Pinto, a member of the memorial committee, and discussed the project with her. Ms. Pinto stated that she absolutely does not think the disc-golf course would affect the memorial. Ms. Mangold would like to get the funding from ARPA for this project if planning and construction can be timed correctly.

Not more than \$5,000 will be required for the feasibility study.

- **Softball Batting Cage Funding Request**

The sole softball batting cage in the town is located at Newtown Middle School – it is dilapidated and not in use. Newtown Babe Ruth Softball has asked for a new batting cage to be built between the two turf fields at Liberty Fields. This request has been made in the past by NBRS President Pat McCleary and was reinvigorated this spring. NPR has been asked to share the cost of this project for girls' softball and to carry it out in spring 2024.

- **Fruit Trail Signage and Clean-Up**

The World Repair Planting Foundation, Inc. (Andrew Mangold) is applying for a grant from the Jeniam Foundation to fund welcoming, educational signage and professional maintenance for clean-up of the trail for Phase II of the Fruit Trail. Phase II has already been approved by the Fairfield Hills Authority. The foundation needs the approval from Newtown Parks and Recreation and other agencies in order to award the funds for Phase II.

The Fruit Trail has an account within the Park Gift Fund for donations. Mr. Warren Spencer asked how this information is made available to the public. Ms. Mangold relayed that it is included in the brochure as well as on the website (this will be checked and added where necessary).

Correspondence:

Copies of written correspondence are attached.

Chairman's Report:

Mr. DePaolo asked for an update about the Girl Scout project for a Sports Equipment Chest for Dickinson Park. Mr. Samuelson relayed that the Girl Scout project of an equipment chest for Dickinson Park has recently been delivered and will be put in place soon. Mr. Aaron Britton saw a Facebook post about the finished chest.

Mr. DePaolo received a call from an acquaintance to advise him that the Parks Maintainer who opens Treadwell Park every morning is exceptionally nice. He also mentioned that some parents from community sports groups have contacted him with concerns about being informed of meeting dates for their respective groups. Mr. Samuelson stated there is a lot of new administration and some of the information might not have been passed

down. He will have a letter go out to the sports organizations with a reminder to pass along important information to all parents/guardians and participants.

Director's Report:

The Fall Brochure has been released and registration is going well.

Lisa Irving, who has been our Torpedoes Swim Team Coach for many years, is leaving the position. Hiring a new coach has been a challenge but Rose Ann succeeded and hired David Lawrence yesterday. We believe he will be a wonderful coach for the Torpedoes program.

Also, Tom Horan who runs our Masters Swimming program for adults, has moved. We are seeking a new coach for this adult program. The Horan Family will be greatly missed.

In the past, the week before school opens, we have been opening the pool & beach at 4pm. This year we decided to open at 11 am as it customarily is very hot this week and in demand. Diane Sarna, Waterfront Director, was able to facilitate this earlier opening with lifeguards. Unfortunately, the week turned out to be chilly and rainy and was not well-attended. The pool closed on Monday, Labor Day. It then turned very hot and the public asked to have the pool re-opened but as much as we tried, it was not possible due to the lack of available lifeguards.

Schools instituted early dismissal the first week of school due to the heat and NPR followed suit and had fields closed to practices until 5:30pm. This worked out well.

We have re-started our Middle School Fridays program at the Newtown Teen Center. We have a new supervisor for Friday afternoons, John Sclafani.

Last Thursday night we had a Band Night at the Teen Center after a long lapse of time without such an event. The organizer did a wonderful job, started small and hopes to have another Band Night on a Friday evening in October and build momentum. The organizer would like to have one Band Night per month. A police officer is required for such events and we did not get a response from Jobs-4-Blue. Officer William Chapman kindly offered to step in and was wonderful. Having been a school resource officer, he has a good rapport with many of the teenagers in town.

Assistant Director's Report:

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation

See Attached

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks

Two Park Maintainer positions are open at this time.

The second half of August and early September finds our staff busy with typical seasonal tasks of closing down the pool, prepping for fall sports and carrying blowers everywhere to clean up early leaves. The rain has returned and has already put fall sports behind the eight ball as far as scrambling to make up for cancelled events.

Dickinson Park: No news here although planning for the next phase of pavilion work and the bathroom roofs is ongoing. Most of the planning is simply waiting for ordered materials to arrive.

Newtown Middle School: Fall sports have begun here. Fields have been laid out, painted and fertilized for the fall. Aeration work has started here as well.

Orchard Hill: A fallen tree needs to be removed here, which has been a recurring theme. There is a crushed bench as well for which we are researching repair parts.

Lake Lillinonah: No new news here except that we have received the fall schedule for lowering the lake, for which we will be sure we have our dock out in time.

Oakview: The driveway apron has been paved and new guiderail is finally being installed. The field has been laid out and painted for fall sports. This field was fertilized and aerated as well.

Tilson Field: No new news here. The field is open for fall sports.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: These fields are open and lined for fall sports. The staircase was repaired after the heavy rains eroded some of the staircase.

Glander Fields: We renovated the infield of Glander 2 and added sod behind home plate on Glander 1. Glander 3 was also lipped and edged for the fall season. Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Liberty Fields: New field boxes were moved to hear at the request of NYS. Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Walnut Tree: No new news here. Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Fairfield Hills: Regular campus maintenance has been ongoing. The tunnels are being pumped on a regular basis with the amount of rain we have been having. The temporary Pickleball fence that was requested has been installed. The soccer fields have been aerated.

NHS Fields: All of the fields have been lined for fall sports. The high school fields have been aerated and fertilized.

Sandy Hook School: Holes have been filled in the typical position spots on the baseball and soccer fields. Regular mowing and maintenance continues here.

Hawley School Fields: Hawley 1 has been renovated and the infield sodded. The football field has been lined and regular mowing continues here.

Eichlers Cove Marina: The beach has been groomed more often due to erosion.

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

Treadwell Park: The pools are shut down. We have been spending a lot more time in the past few weeks repairing erosion and putting the wood chips back in the playgrounds following heavy rains.

Pole Bridge Preserve: No new news.

Watertown Field: Regular mowing and grooming continues here.

Other Notes

- 360 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 2,112 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 17 % loss in workforce.

Commissioners Out & About:

Mr. Aaron Britton commented that he noticed a new basketball hoop on the Fairfield Hills Campus (near Newsylum Brewery) while walking. Mr. Samuelson reported that the old hoop became unusable and they were able to erect a new hoop (using a surplus backboard from the Nike donation of hoops to Treadwell Park).

Motions:

- Mr. Warren Spencer made a motion to approve up to \$5,000 for the feasibility study for proposed Pickleball courts. Mr. Aaron Britton seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion passed.

- Mr. Jim Parker made a motion to devote \$30,000 for a softball batting cage from the surcharge special revenue fund. Mr. Warren Spencer seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion passed.
- Mr. Warren Spencer made a motion for educational signage as well as professional maintenance for clean-up of the Fruit Trail for Phase II. Aaron Britton seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion passed.

Adjournment of Meeting:

Mr. Britton made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

Mr. DePaolo declared the meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled is Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Respectfully submitted by,
Jennifer Balbes, Clerk



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

www.newtown-ct.gov/parks-recreation

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
Amy Mangold, Director

FROM: Rose Ann Reggiano, Assistant Director – Recreation

DATE: September 12, 2023

RE: Monthly Report

Our summer was great with Treadwell pool and Eichler's Cove Beach.

We sold 1146 residents and 83 nonresidents family passes; 39 residents and 10 nonresidents individual passes; 94 residents and 6 nonresidents day passes; 94 residents and 3 daily 6 visit passes; And 474 residents and 23 nonresidents senior passes.

We had a total of 5716 pool visits and 2808 beach visits most popular time at beach was between 11 am to 3 pm.

At the gate at Treadwell pool, we raised \$5955.00.

We sold 34 nonresident parking permits.

Diane Sarna are Waterfront Director did an excellent job managing all lifeguards with majority of them returning to college or school sports.

Our fall brochure is out and registration has begun. For our Torpedoes swim team I hired a new head coach, David Lawrence, with assistants Kimmy Gates and Lester Frost. I am still looking for coaches. I want to thank Lisa Irving who was our head coach for many years for the awesome job she did over the years.

We also started a NEW Volleyball league this fall/ winter. So far we have 2 teams. We are looking for 6 teams to run.

We have our 4th Annual Scarecrow contest happening again at Fairfield Hills Lampposts. So far, we have 5 lampposts. Donations are coming in for our winners of our lampposts. We have already received gift certificates from Cover Two Sports Bar, Nick's Catering and Oak Barrel Wine and Spirits.

Halloween Happening will be on October 27th from 5:30 – around 8 pm. This year we are combining it with the Community Center. We have a special guest at 7 pm; Piglet the pink, deaf, blind puppy who teaches acceptance, inclusion, empathy and kindness. Once again, we will be collecting candy for Main Street.

This coming month I will be working with Rec Trac (our computer program we use for registrations, etc) on credit card auto pay, scholarships, and camp doc to help improve our services. In addition, Amy, Rita and I will be also looking into Pay Trac to help with accepting mobile point of sale and balancing our deposits more efficiently with finance.



NEWTOWN BABE RUTH SOFTBALL LEAGUE, INC.

August 30th, 2023

Park & Rec Board:

I have recently taken over the President duties for Newtown Softball from Pat McCleary and look forward to meeting you all soon. I have been working with Carl Samuelson on a batting cage project for the Liberty softball fields. We really think that this would be a great addition to what are already great fields that get a ton of use by our organization for practices, games, and tournaments.

Carl has all the details and I'm sure can answer any questions that you may have, but the proposal includes specs for a tandem batting cage set up on a turf base in between the two fields on the Upper Liberty side. My understanding in talking to Carl is that the inspection work for such a project has already been completed and can be moved along without difficulty.

The full cost for the project according to Carl's quotes would be \$45K, to be completed in Spring 2024. What I'd like to propose is that Park & Rec and Newtown Softball partner on this project and split the cost 50/50. We have already completed significant fundraising efforts to cover our end and would anticipate fulling the rest this Fall.

I'm sure Carl can answer any questions on details you may have and I'm happy to engage with the board at any level to gain approval for this project.

I look forward to hearing from you soon on what I think will be a value-added project for the town and Newtown Softball.

Sincerely,

Karl J. Murphy

Karl J. Murphy, President
Newtown Softball

Aug 23

Amy -

Some of the early
fruits of the orchard.

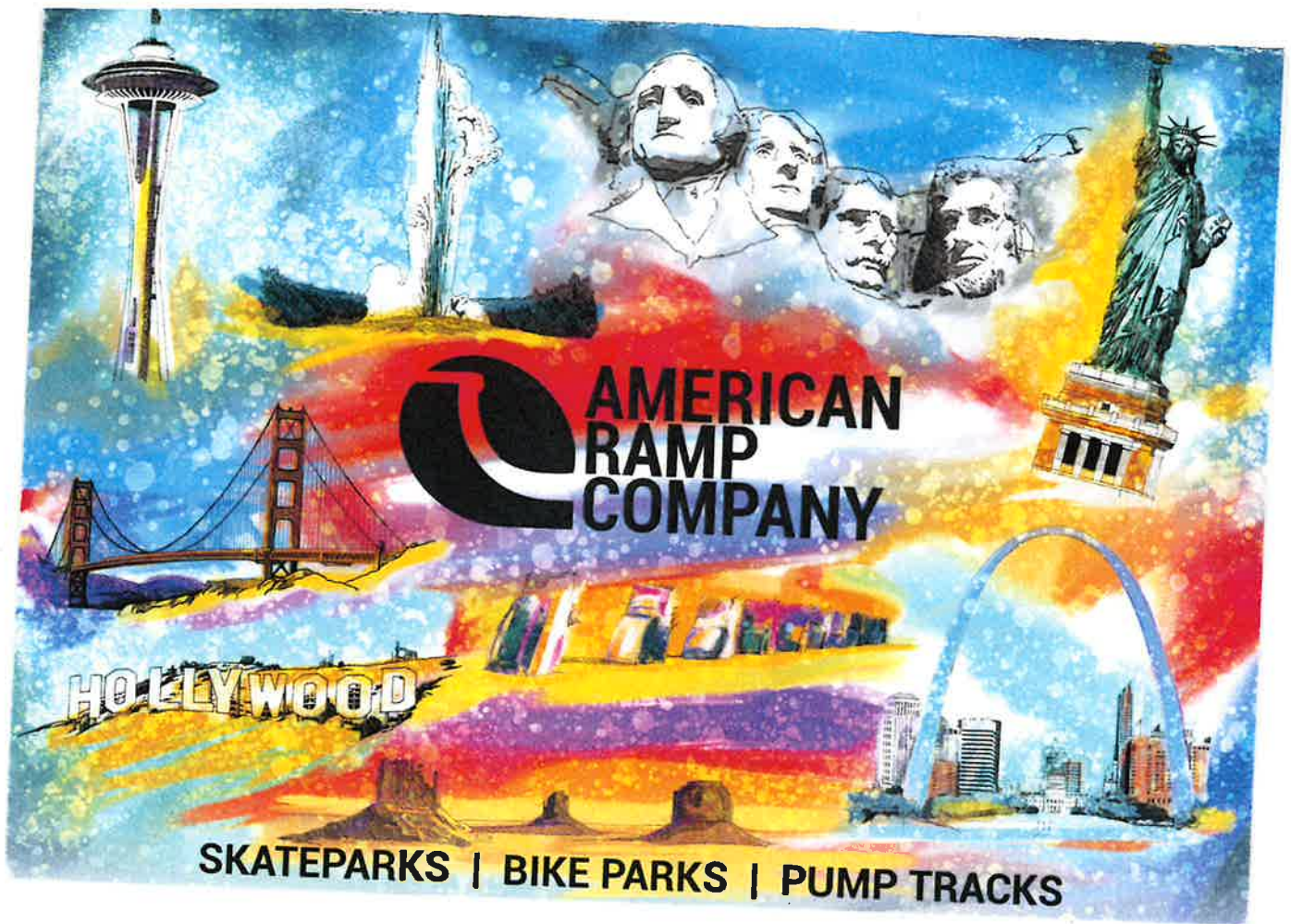
The three pretty apples
are Zestor. The others
are McIntosh - not

so pretty but GOOD.

Many thanks for
yours (+ every one at P+R)
support of the Victory
Garden and Orchard

from the VG Committee -
Gail, Barbara, and
orchard man Mark





Amy,

I hope summer has been treating you well! It was great working with you on this project as always. It will be a super fun amenity for the community for years to come. I'm looking forward to seeing some awesome photos and videos of the project. Please let me know if there is anything else I can be helping with. Looking forward to visiting the next time I'm in Connecticut!

Thanks,
Alec



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

Re: [Newtown CT] Outdoor roller rink (Sent by Robert Nasso, robnas94@gmail.com)

1 message

Amy Mangold <amy.mangold@newtown-ct.gov>
To: robnas94@gmail.com

Tue, Sep 5, 2023 at 12:57 PM

Hi Rob,

I will bring your correspondence to our Commission meeting next week. We have currently devised our capital improvement plan and a project for an outdoor roller rink was not something we have listed as a priority for funding but something I can bring to their attention for the future. This sounds like a great amenity for our community. Most capital projects do need a strong core group to advocate for the need and creative fundraising and financial support ideas such as grants or donations to gain support. Our skatepark, dog park, bicycle playground and FunSpace II playground are all examples of such grass roots supported projects.

Thank you,
Amy

On Tue, Sep 5, 2023 at 11:10 AM Contact form at Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com> wrote:

Hello amangold,

Robert Nasso (robnas94@gmail.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:

Hello,

I am writing to inquire about the possibility of an outdoor roller rink being installed somewhere in town. I am a new resident in Newtown and I have met several people here who, like myself, would be thrilled at the opportunity to be able to play roller hockey at an outdoor roller rink, whether it be at a park or at the Fairfield Hills campus alongside the various baseball fields, pickleball courts, and other recreational facilities.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rob Nasso



Amy E. W. Mangold

9/12/23, 4:40 PM

Director Newtown Parks and Recreation
Office (203) 270-4342
FAX (203) 270-2909
amy.mangold@newtown-ct.gov
The benefits are Endless!!

Town of Newtown Mail - Re: [Newtown CT] Outdoor roller rink (Sent by Robert Nasso, robnas94@gmail.com)