

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 in the Conference Room, 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks at 6:00 pm.

**Present:** Edward Marks, Clinton DePaolo, Linda Hess, Warren Spencer, Vincent Yanni, Jr.

**Absent:** Patrick Barczak

**Staff Present:** Amy Mangold, RoseAnn Reggiano, Carl Samuelson

**Public:** None

Mr. Marks started the meeting by introducing Mr. Clinton DePaolo, as a new Parks and Recreation commissioner.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

Tabled until next month

**Old Business:**

- *CIP:*
  - ❖ Mr. Marks, Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson attended a Board of Selectman meeting. One of the topics discussed was the Eichler's Cove bathhouse project. It was originally thought that \$200,000 would come from the CIP and \$200,000 would come from the Eichler's Cove revenue fund. First Selectman Dan Rosenthal felt more comfortable with the entire project being funded by the Eichler's Cove revenue fund. Finance Director Bob Tait had put together an estimate balance for the Eichler's revenue account for next year and it shows that there will probably be sufficient money to pay for the project.
  - ❖ The commission also discussed the Eichler's Cove ADA compliant project. Parks and Recreation is in the process of getting plans and prices for this project. At this time P&R commission isn't sure who will be funding this project and making sure the Cove is in ADA compliant, if it will be P&R or the town. In December, the Commission had approved up to \$25,000 to have Stantec do the project planning for compliance at Eichler's Cove.
  - ❖ The BOS is working on approving a 5 year plan, but will be reexamining projects each year carefully, before approving or bonding. Ms. Mangold discussed the Parks and Recreation master plan with the BOS, which includes a new pavilion at Dickinson Park and adding pickleball courts. Ms. Mangold shared that a new pavilion at Dickinson would add value to the town and community. The current pavilion at Dickinson is over 50 years old and is in need of major repair or replacement. Mr. DePaolo stated that it might not be easy to generate and raise revenue in order to have funds to build a new pavilion when the current pavilion doesn't have the appeal, because of its poor condition. A new pavilion shouldn't be based as a total revenue attribute, but also as a betterment to the community. Mr. Samuelson stated that the park pavilion is also used for the children in summer camps during hot or rainy days. The community also uses the pavilion for picnics and events. Ms. Mangold continued that pickleball is becoming very popular activity and the town doesn't have enough courts to keep up with the demand. The CIP goes before the Legislative Council Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- *Budget:*

Ms. Mangold, Mr. Samuelson and Mr. Marks met with First Selectman Dan Rosenthal and Finance Director Bob Tait today, to look at the budget that the Parks and Recreation commission approved. Mr. Marks had requested that instead of the First Selectman cutting specific items, that he give them the dollar amounts and reductions needed and P&R will do the work on deciding what to eliminate to reach the financial goal.

- **Community Center:**  
It continues to look like Park and Recreation will be housed at the Community Center along with the Community Center staff. At the Selectman meeting the Advisory Commission gave an update on the Community Center. First Selectman Rosenthal voted to appoint a Community Center Committee vs a Community Center Commission. The process of interviewing and hiring a Community Center Director will begin next week.

**Director's Report:**

**Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:**

- Ms. Mangold stated that she continues to work with Stantec and project planning to make Eichler's Cove ADA compliant.
- Ms. Mangold stated that she continues to work with staff to make sure staff is working at a professional level.
- Ms. Mangold is meeting with Pat Llodra on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Llodra is working on an *Age Friendly Community* project and wants to discuss age friendly initiatives.
- The staff is working with Erin Masotta to organize the upcoming *Summer Concert Series*.
- The staff has a meeting scheduled with Helen Brickfield to discuss the possibilities of doing another Food Truck event. The commission discussed special events and coming up with resolutions for traffic, parking and safety measures.
- The staff will be meeting with Bob Connor to talk about hosting another *Fall Carnival*.

**RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:**

- Ms. Reggiano handed out a report that showed a breakdown of 2017 fees from pool/beach passes, Eichler's Cove boat slips/launch, programs, and summer camps.
- The new version of RecTrac (computer program) will be implemented starting January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Job applications for spring and summer part time work are due the beginning of March. All the camp counselors are now required to submit a health certification.
- The *Daddy Daughter Dance* is schedule for February 2, 2018, at the High School Cafetorium.
- The ice skating party which is now called *Winterbration* is on February 16, 2018. Ms. Reggiano is working with Bens Lighthouse for this event. There will be a DJ, Lucy the Polar Bear, and games at the event.
- Ms. Reggiano talked about making some enhancements to the small Dog Park. They would like to redo the entrance and some of the fencing encompassing the Small Dog Park area.
- Ms. Reggiano stated that pickleball continues to be very popular. Every Tuesday, between 20 and 38 people attend drop-in pickleball, at Sandy Hook School. She explained that there are just not enough courts to accommodate the players and many people have to sit and wait for game time.

**Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:** *see attached report*

- Mr. Samuelson explained that with the bitterly cold weather, the water lines froze at the Teen Center. Also, that ice buildup had ripped some of the gutters off the front of the Teen Center building.
- The maintenance staff has started working on replacing the Treadwell Pool pumps, with the new pumps that have arrived.
- The maintenance staff put in a new propane line at Treadwell Park in December. The propane tank needed to be moved, because it was too close to the building.

**Correspondence:** None

**Commissioners out and about:**

None

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Linda Hess, which was carried unanimously.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February, 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room located at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT.

Submitted by,

*Gabriella Chernoff, clerk*

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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:** January 9, 2018

**RE:** Monthly park update and field report

Christmas event breakdown and snow removal has been our primary focus over the Holidays. The following are site specific tasks completed at our facilities. Seasonal equipment refurbishing, organization and preventative maintenance tasks are all underway.

**Dickinson Park:** More items have been removed from the playground for the winter for repair or safe keeping. The ice skating rink is up and open for skating here. Some brush work along the Brushy Hill fencing and invasive removal has begun.

**Newtown Middle School:** No new news here. Some backstop repair will start when weather allows.

**Orchard Hill:** Regular garbage patrol continues but otherwise no new news here.

**Lake Lillinonah:** No new news here.

**Glander Fields:** No new news here.

**Liberty Fields:** The extreme temperatures have kept us from continuing on the ramp project but all of the meadows here have been cut for the season. Some fence repair and ramp completion remain as well as relocating the Dickinson shed.

**Oakview:** No new news here.

**Tilson Field:** Brush work has begun along the Tilson fence , although the snow and weather has hindered our progress.

**Treadwell Soccer/Softball:** No new news here.

**Walnut Tree:** No new news here.

**Fairfield Hills:** Aside from daily trail checks and keeping the walks clear of snow we have now been tasked with keeping the upper trail plowed.  
The ice rink here is currently being constructed.

**NHS Fields:** No new news here.

**Dog Park:** No new news here.

**Treadwell Park:** A new underground propane line has been completed to the Camp Building and pool pump replacement has begun.

**Eichlers Cove Marina:** ADA compliance work continues. The A2/T2 survey was completed at the end of December and Stantec is now working on design.

Staff:

- 392 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1496 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 26% loss in workforce.