

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:01 pm.

**Present:** Edward Marks, Patrick Barczak, Linda Hess, Vincent Yanni, Jr., PJ Yochum

**Absent:** Maureen Crick Owen, Warren Spencer

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

**Public:** None

**Public Participation:** None

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Tabled until June 13, 2017 commission meeting.

**Old Business:**

- *Community Center:*  
Ms. Mangold stated that she attended a "Community Center and Senior Center Design Team and Advisory Committee" meeting on May 5, 2017. Ms. Mangold handed out a draft of the Community Center Roles and Responsibilities of the community center and senior center task groups. It is a guide for each task group to follow in each phase of the development of the Community Center. This will be discussed at the May 15, 2017 BOS meeting, with possible action. First Selectman Pat Llodra informed the group that the BOS has scheduled a special meeting for May 23, 2013 to hear from the design team regarding design recommendations and cost estimation.
- *P&R Logo:*  
Ms. Mangold showed the commission a couple of examples of possible new logos for P&R. Ms. Mangold and Ms. Reggiano have been working with a marketing company Jantris on coming up with a new logo. Ms. Mangold explained how she is having the entire P&R staff look at the drafts and requested feedback, input and even new ideas. The commission all expressed that they liked one logo over the other. The saying is: *Play, Learn and Connect.*
- *P&R Presentation:*  
The P&R staff would like to present the slide show and graphs that that was presented to the Legislative Council last summer. The commission was in agreement to do the presentation at the July or August 2017 meeting, following a group facilities tour. The commission will come up with a more definitive date as we get closer.

**New Business:** None

**Correspondence:**

- Ms. Mangold received a thank you note from Matt Kretz. P&R had donated a gift basket to Mr. Kretz's work camp program, where the group was able to raise \$16,000.00.
- Mr. Marks received a letter regarding the wonderful Pickle Ball courts in town and the need for more courts due to the popularity of the game.

The commission discussed at the length the demand for pickle ball courts and some short term solutions and long term goals. As a short term solution the commission came to a decision to add lines to the Dickinson tennis courts.

## Motion

Commissioner PJ Yochum made a motion to approve using up to \$2,500.00 from surcharge to paint pickle ball lines on Dickinson Park tennis courts in 2017, in the event that there is not enough money left over from painting lines on the Dickinson Park basketball court. Commissioner Patrick Barczak seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## Director's Report

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

- Ms. Mangold explained to the commission that the owner of the NYA, Peter Damico has hired the Sports Facilities Management Group to help with a business plan. SFM is the same group that the town had hired at the origination of the Community Center. Ms. Mangold and Ms. Reggiano had a meeting with SFM to come up with new ideas and how to manage some of the activities, fees and hours of use. Ms. Mangold and Ms. Reggiano have another meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2017.
- Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson have a meeting schedule with Leaps of Faith to discuss some possible locations for their facility.
- The P&R office is in the process of upgrading their software program: RecTrac. The town IT department is helping with the process. The program will be much easier to navigate.
- Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson attended a Fairfield Hills meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was to collaborate with town departments, to help with prioritizing projects, events and work from a unified front. Fairfield Hills Chairman, Ross Carley made a motion to create a sub-committee to consist of 2 Fairfield Hills Authority members, 2 P&R members, 2 P&Z members and Land Use employees to meet and discuss what the needs are of the Fairfield Hills Campus. Ms. Hess expressed her concerns about the overlapping of events and parking issues. It was suggested of possibly having a shared Google calendar.
- Ms. Mangold stated that the P&R Administrative Assistant position has been posted internally.
- Ms. Mangold has been working on Union negotiations for the Park Maintainers.
- Ms. Mangold and Mr. Harvey Pessin, Volunteer Victory Garden Manager, attended a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class at the Reed School to part take in *Project Ground Hog*. Project Ground Hog is a process of coming up with ideas on how to keep ground hogs out of garden and protect the plantings.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> was the Fruit Trail Awakening, where between 15 and 20 volunteers showed up to help get the Fruit Trail ready for the summer. United Way Day of Careing will be working on the Fruit Trail in June.

### RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- The Rooster Run was held the end of April. The Rooster Run is usually held in June and this year it was decided to change the event to April. There were 151 runners, which was a low turn-out historically. Ms. Reggiano feels it was because there are a lot of spring sports plus there were 2 other large races the same day and many other races in the last couple of weeks. Ms. Reggiano and Ms. Mangold are going to sit down with Becky Osbourne to talk about making some changes for next year's race. Ms. Reggiano is going to add the ability to register for the race at the time of bib pickup as well as early registration via online or at the office. Ms. Reggiano thanked commissioners PJ Yochum and Linda Hess for helping hand out bibs and shirts the evening before the race. Ms. Reggiano also expressed her appreciation to Mr. Marks and Ms. Crick Owen for helping out the day of the Rooster Day Race.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual May Pole/Garden Party was held on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Victory Garden. Ms. Reggiano told the commission that it was a very successful event and all in attendance had fun. Between 40 and 50 people came to the party, including: bee and pollen advocates,
- Newtown High School Forestry, people from the Victory Garden, etc. There were many things to part take in, including: May Pole dance, painting bird houses, and music.
- The Newtown Middle School will not be available for P&R activities the month of July thru the first week of August, due to construction. Ms. Reggiano has been working hard to find new locations for the indoor summer programs during that time period.

- Ms. Reggiano had a meeting with the Eichler's Park Wardens last week. Four of our tenure Wardens are returning for the 2017 summer season. The Wardens are also going to help cover Lake Lillanonah park.
- Gate Attendant staff meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> is the Senior Citizen Prom, "A Night in Paris", which will be held at the Newtown High School Café, from 4pm to 8pm.
- Strutt Your Mutt is on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 2pm.
- June 17<sup>th</sup> is the Food Truck Festival. There are currently over 20 food trucks and many vendors that will be at the festival. The festival will run from 11am to 5pm.
- Mad Dash is on Saturday, June 17, 2017.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

*See attachment*

- Paving of Dickinson parking lot has been completed.
- All the fields are open. Senior night is at Treadwell this week, so they will be painting softballs on outfield, like has been done every year.
- Mr. Samuelson and Ms. Mangold continue to attend Deep Brook meetings at Fairfield Hills.
- The project at Treadwell Park has been completed over by the small playground. There will be more parking spots once the parking lot is paved. The paving will be completed once the project is bonded. The staff is hoping to pave early June, if not it will be done in the fall after the summer season activities are done. Ms. Mangold does have 3 consecutive meetings (BOS, BOF, Legislative Council) next week to get the approval.
- The pool was opened this week. The staff is replacing the pool pumps. It has been 7 years since the pool pumps have been replaced. Technology has improved a lot in 7 years, so there were some items that had to be replaced and upgraded.
- Eichler's Cove parking lot has been paved. In the process of parking lines and planting. All the docks are in and 5 of the 6 Jet Ski slips are in and rented. The staff is currently waiting for the hardware to add the 6 Jet Ski slip. The dry storage rack (for kayaks, canoes and paddle boards) has been moved onto the beach area, so it's closer to the water and easier to carry kayak to lake. Mr. Samuelson suggested purchasing a modular kayak launching dock, which will be placed close to the dry storage area. The cost will be approximately \$5,000.00. The commission was excited about this amenity. It does require a part that may not be available this summer, so might need to wait until next summer.
- The water and splash pad at the dog park is on.

**Commissioners out and about:**

- PJ Yochum and Linda Hess helped on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> with handing out bibs for the Rooster Run race.
- Ed Marks and Maureen Crick Owen helped out at the Rooster Run Race on Saturday, April, 29, 2017.
- Patrick Barczak helped to install tree gages at the Fruit Trail in the fall and the trees were well protected.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner PJ Yochum made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Barczak, which was carried unanimously.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

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:** May 9, 2017

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

Spring sports are in full swing. We have been doing our best despite heavy rain recently. Fields opened on time and all of our other facilities should open as scheduled as well.

**Dickinson Park:** Paving was completed, only striping a few handicap spots remains. The new Privet hedge looks great, and the septic issue has been corrected







**Orchard Hill:** No new news here. We have been emptying garbage 2-3 times a week in hopes that this will keep things from over filling.

**Lake Lillinonah:** The dock is in and things are all set here.

**Glander Fields:** Things are gearing up here. The new field is filling in nicely and we will be completing the outfield edge as soon as the Treadwell playground is complete.

**Liberty Fields:** These fields are open and in good shape. Regular grooming for the spring season is now in effect.

**Oakview:** All of the irrigation and injection systems are running, the field is looking good.



**Tilson Field:** No new news here.

**Treadwell Soccer/Softball:** These fields are looking good and in use on a daily basis.



**Walnut Tree:** Things are looking good here.

**Fairfield Hills:** Fields are all in use on a daily basis. We have identified some toppled trees on the campus trails to be removed and used for a stream restoration later this summer.

**NHS Fields:** The school teams have been using these fields daily as expected. Regular mowing and grooming is in effect here.

**Dog Park:** Things are getting busy here. The water and splash pads are in full operation here for the season.



**Treadwell Park:** The small playground area is just about complete. Some plantings and bench installation is all that remains. Playground chips are being installed here for the season. The pool has been uncovered but some pump challenges remain. If all goes well one main pump will be circulating water tomorrow. The parking lot bid came in right on budget and will allow us to complete both alternates.





**Eichlers Cove Marina:** Paving work was completed today, and the lot will be lined on Thursday. Some landscaping work remains as part of the overall project which will be 100% complete in the next week.

All of the docks are in, and ready for boats this weekend.

We will be moving the kayak rack, later this week.



Staff:

- 168 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1600 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 10.5% loss in workforce.