

Town of Newtown, CT

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a virtual meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 on our respective phones and laptops in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks at 6:03 pm.

Present: Edward Marks, Patrick Barczak, Clinton DePaolo, David Payne, Warren Spencer, Rance Thompson and Vincent Yanni.

Commissioners Absent: None.

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, RoseAnn Reggiano and Carl Samuelson

Public: Mr. Ed Miklaszewski, 4 Chimney Swift Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Public Participation:

Please see Mr. Miklaszewski's proposal under Old Business – Soccer/Disc Golf.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion:

Commissioner Pat Barczak made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2020 commission meeting. Commissioner Clinton DePaolo seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the accepted minutes.

Old Business: (See attachment #1)

- *Soccer-Disc Course:* Mr. Ed Miklaszewsky presented a conceptual draft to the board for a proposed soccer-disc course that he thought could be easily adapted to the layout of Fairfield Hills Campus. Mr. Miklaszewsky explained that "there is a lot of enthusiasm about this idea". He also pointed out that there are over 500 soccer players in Newtown, and between soccer and frisbee use, it could be enjoyed by many. It is a course that can be used alone, in couples or with a larger group. Perfect timing for this era of social distancing. There is a way to do it inexpensively, but as it takes just as much planning to go forward with a makeshift situation, it may be easier to get pricing to just get it done correctly, rather than having to redo the course down the road. Commission Chairman, Ed Marks asked Assistant Director of Parks, Carl Samuelson what he thinks the cost would be, to which Mr. Samuelson reported that a very professional course that he knows of, cost roughly \$50,000. Director Mangold pointed out that that was a 18 hole course, where as his draft is only nine holes. The commission discussed going forward with as few as three holes just to get started. Mr. Marks suggested that they meet with the Fairfield Hills Authority about the idea, as soon as possible. Mr. Miklaszewsky suggested that Mr. Samuelson and some of the commissioners walk the space with him to

see his vision. Commissioner DePaolo was particularly enthusiastic about the prospect, as he loves disc golf. The entire commission thanked Mr. Miklaszewsky for his hard work and enthusiasm about this great project.

Motion:

Commissioner Clinton DePaolo made a motion to pursue the conceptual plan and move forward with the soccer/disc course at Fairfield Hills or alternate site. Commissioner Barczak seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

- *Bicycle Playground Update:* Director Mangold informed the commission that she, Mr. Samuelson and Commissioner DePaolo held a conference call with Paula Burton (absent was Brad Accettella). Mr. DePaolo said they are reaching out to American Ramp Company to discuss various issues, namely price and placement. Chairman Marks asked what the ramp would look like. Mr. Samuelson explained that it would be a 3 foot wide, dirt ramp with two connecting loops that would be about the size of the skateboard park at Dickinson. Mr. Marks asked Mr. Samuelson to please keep them apprised of the project.

New Business:

C.I.P. (see attachment #2)

- Commission Chairman Marks provided a brief summary of the CIP process, what projects typically included in the CIP, and how Parks & Recreation projects receive consideration in conjunction with the Town's CIP, as drafted and presented by the Board of Selectman.
- Mr. Marks noted that Parks and Recreation really needs to defend why new projects are important to the Town (including self-funding projects through surcharge, or projects that are partially town funded), because the Board of Selectman must ultimately decide which, of all the town's projects, should be included in the Town's CIP plan.
- Mr. Marks is worried that Newtown is falling behind when it comes to Pickle Ball. The Board of Selectmen does not appear to view this project as a top priority, but as it is one of the less costly projects, it may be a good idea to have plans in place in case of a more costly project falling through. In the meantime, the committee plans to encourage player participation in town meetings regarding pickle ball as so many people are getting into the sport.
- After much back and forth, the Commission decided to approve the C.I.P. Plan as follows: (see attachment #3)

- Item 1 - Fairfield Hills Pickle Ball Courts Year 22/23
- Item 2 - Fairfield Hills Trail Plan- Final Phase Year 23/24
- Item 3 - Lake Lillinonah Park Improvements Year 23/24
- Item 4 - Maintenance Yard Abatement Year 25/26
- Item 5 - Teen Center Renovation Year 26/27
- Item 6 - Treadwell Turf and Lighting Year 26/27
- Item 7 - Dickinson Water Playground Year 27/28
- Item 8 - Rail Trail – Batcheldor Park Year 25/26

- Item 9 - Treadwell Playground Replacement Year 28/29
- Item 10 - Duplex/Plymouth Hall Renovation Year 29/30

Motion:

Commissioner DePaolo entertained a motion to approve the C.I.P. Plan as discussed. Commissioner Vincent Yanni seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Chairman’s Report:

Edward Marks, Chairman Newtown Parks and Recreation:

- None.

Director’s Report:

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Mangold met with Dog Park committee members regarding the handling of aggressive dogs at the Dog Park. They realized the signage that had been up regarding aggressive dogs had come down so they are putting them back up. As far as making rules regarding aggressive dogs, they are instead directing dog owners to phone either Carol Lee (the dog warden) or RoseAnn Reggiano to handle each situation on a case by case basis. Chairman Marks agreed with that decision rather than keeping non-neutered dogs out of the park, as was the original suggestion. Ms. Mangold also reported that the Dog Park Committee raised \$2,140 toward Dog Park improvements from the Dog Park Calendar fundraiser.
- Newtown Board of Education provided Parks & Recreation with four students for the Ambassador program this summer at the two parks. Kathy Oster, Peg Ragaini and the students did a great job lending support throughout the summer.
- Treadwell Park lost power for five days, then got back up, then went down again, consequently closing the pool. On top of that, the internet was down making reservations impossible. In addition, Eichler’s Cove Beach has been facing bacteria level challenges. Throughout these disruptions, people have been wonderfully understanding, and the lifeguards have done a great job maintaining social distancing numbers without the help of the reservation system.
- RoseAnn Reggiano did a great job wrapping up day camp (and just running the camps, in general). Due to power outages the last week of camp, RoseAnn managed to put together an amazing end of the year pool party for each camp at the Community Center. The campers had a blast, and their parents were thrilled. Commissioner Marks thanked RoseAnn for all of her hard work making summer run smoothly during this very challenging time.

Assistant Directors Reports:

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- Ms. Reggiano reported that summer programs were a huge success. The day camps ran smoothly. Both parents and campers were very happy. The counselors were able to maintain social distancing between groups while making sure the kids had a blast. There were no COVID cases, and the two-week sessions made the camp more cohesive than

ever, so RoseAnn plans on continuing with the two week sessions in the future. The counselors ran a tight ship because of social distancing, and subsequently, nothing made its way to the “Lost and Found” for the first time ever, Ms. Reggiano remarked. They truly went above and beyond, said Ms. Reggiano. Camp ended last week, and in addition to the two end of year day camp parties, the pool was closed Friday night for a Lifeguard Appreciation party. They did an amazing job this summer, and it served as a great end of the season thank you.

- The sports camps ran smoothly, as well. Kudos to Mr. Scott Bulkley, Newtown High School’s head lacrosse coach, for putting together a very successful lacrosse camp. As always, the basketball camps were wonderful, too. Pickle Ball courts at Dickinson are painted and busy already. Jan Brown, resident Pickle Ball advocate, emailed RoseAnn to express her approval and thanks.
- All in all, it was a wonderful summer. Now Ms. Reggiano is moving on to fall programming. Ms. Reggiano is working with facility managers for school program use. At this time, the baby sitting course is moving to the Community Center. Like this past summer, things need to remain fluid to be able to adapt to any new restrictions that may arise.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks: (See attachment #4)

- In addition to the attachment, Mr. Samuelson discussed the need of new fencing at Watertown Field.
- Commissioner Barczak thanked Carl for doing such a beautiful job with the Dickinson Park tennis courts.

Motion:

Commissioner Barczak made a motion to confirm Parks and Recreation’s commitment to not exceed \$25,000 of surcharge funds for the fencing at Watertown Field. Commissioner Clinton DePaolo seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Commissioners out and about: None.

Motion:

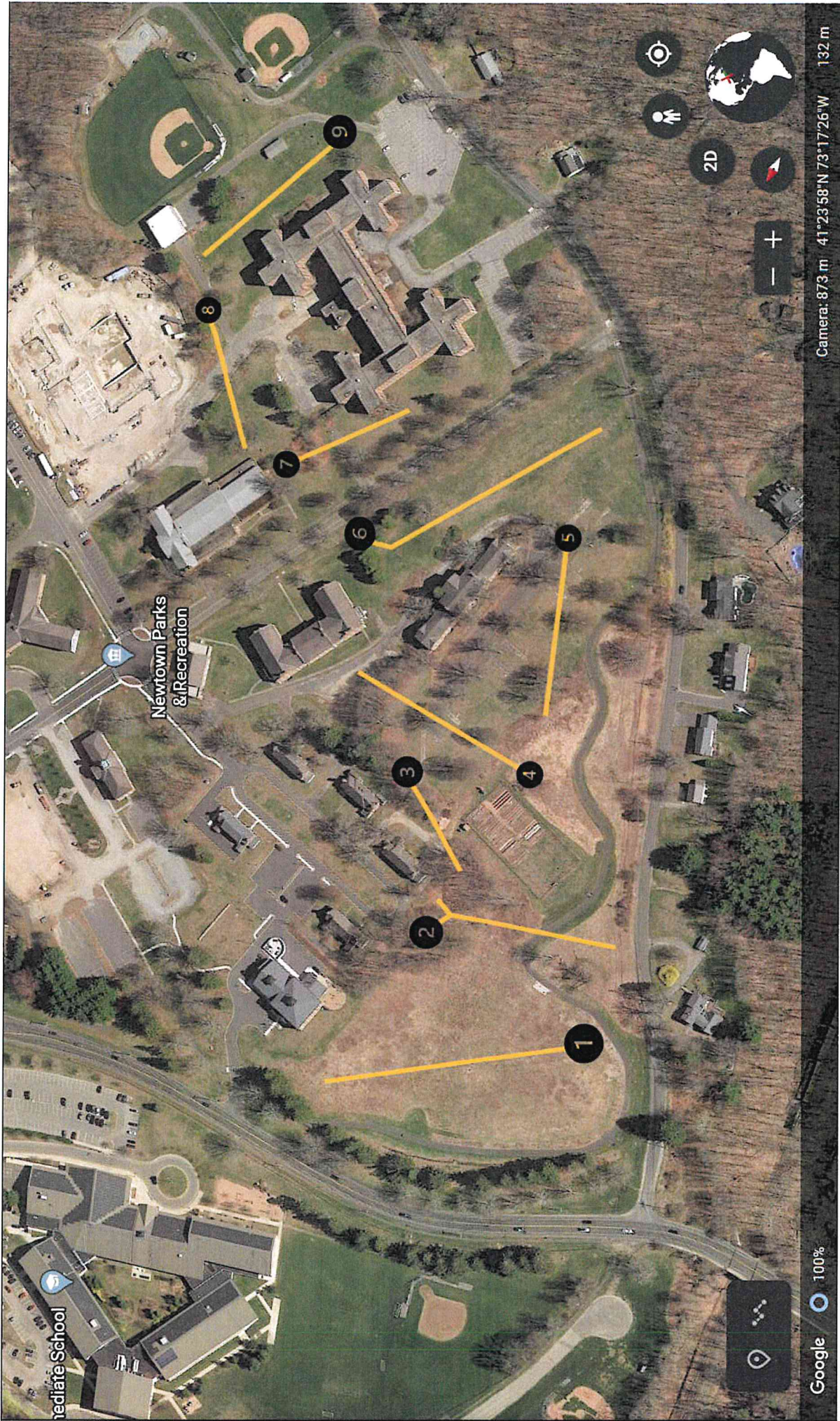
Commissioner Clinton DePaolo moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Vincent Yanni, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Multi-purpose Room located at 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT.

Submitted by,

Kate Geerer, clerk

Attachment #1



attachment #2

Priority *	CIP and Other Possible Projects	Estimated Cost	Funds	Priority												Avg.								
				PB	WS	VY	AM	EM	CD	LH	RI	RR	CS											
Funded through CIP Process																								
1	Splashpad														1							0.10		
2	Treadwell Park Artificial Turf & Lighting Replacement	\$800,000	CIP	1	2	3	6	1														5	1.70	
3	Treadwell Park Improvements	\$1,000,000	CIP	3	5	6	4	2	5														4	2.60
4	Teen Center Renovation	\$465,000	CIP	2	7	1	5	4	9														1	2.70
5	Rail Trail - Batchelder Park	\$1,400,000	CIP	5	3	13	3	3	2														3	2.70
6	Fairfield Hills Recreation Plan Phase 1 (fields & trail)	\$1,350,000	CIP	4	4	15	1	8	6														2	3.60
7	FFH Campus Enhancements - e.g., tennis, basketball, orchard, playground, etc.		CIP	6	1	9	8	5	4	1													11	3.90
8	Playground Replacement - Treadwell		CIP	7	13	2	13	6	3	6													12	5.50
9	FFH Duplex Remediation to support P & R Programming	\$800,000	CIP	10	8	7	9	9	10														14	5.70
10	Duplex/Plymouth Hall Renovation (Remediation)	\$10,000,000	CIP	16	17	17	2	16	11														6	6.90
11	Artificial Turf Installation at lighted High School back field		CIP	15	12	4	17	17	8	4													7	6.90
12	Treadwell Park Expansion - expand Park through trails & use of old SAC footprint		CIP	8	9	11	10	7	13	7													13	7.00
13	Bike Trails - Rails to Trails, mountain bike trails, street bike lanes - includes funding for legal research		CIP	9	6	12	11	15	12	5													10	7.10
14	Large Pavilion or Bandshell - similar to Levitt Pavilion in Westport		CIP	14	15	5	14	14	15	2													16	8.10
15	Dickinson Park RE Purchase - buy adjoining residence when available		CIP	13	10	10	16	10	16	10													9	8.10
16	BMX/Motorcross ATV Track at Batchelder		CIP	12	16	8	12	11	17	9													8	8.10
17	Fairfield Hills Field Plan - Phase 2		CIP	11	14	16	7	13	14	3													15	8.20
18	Wetland Education at Dickinson Park - additional phases of Cohen/Mangold plan		CIP	17	11	14	15	12	7	8													17	8.40

attachment # 5

Town of Newtown
 Parks & Recreation CIP Summary Worksheet
 For the Ten Fiscal Years 2021/2022 to 2030/2031
PROPOSED PARKS & RECREATION CIP PROJECTS - P & R Commission Approved 08/18/2020

<u>DEPARTMENT:</u> Parks & Recreation		<u>PROJECT COST - TOTAL / BONDED</u>										
<u>Item #</u>	<u>Capital Item</u>	<u>2021/2022</u>	<u>2022/2023</u>	<u>2023/2024</u>	<u>2024/2025</u>	<u>2025/2026</u>	<u>2026/2027</u>	<u>2027/2028</u>	<u>2028/2029</u>	<u>2029/2030</u>	<u>2030/2031</u>	<u>Total</u>
Item 1	Fairfield Hills Pickleball Courts		230,000								*	230,000
Item 2	Fairfield Hills Trail Plan - Final Phase		230,000								*	230,000
Item 3	Lake Lillinonah Park Improvements			350,000							*	350,000
Item 4	Maintenance Yard Abatement & Regulatory Compliance			350,000							*	350,000
Item 5	Teen Center Renovation (property sale issue)			500,000							*	500,000
Item 6	Treadwell Artificial Turf & Lighting Replacement			0		670,000					*	670,000
Item 7	Dickinson Park Water Playground					670,000					*	670,000
Item 8	Rail Trail - Batchelder Park						465,000				*	465,000
Item 9	Treadwell Park Playground Replacement						465,000				*	465,000
Item 10	Duplex/Plymouth Hall Renovation/Remediation						800,000				*	800,000
Item 11							250,000				*	250,000
						1,400,000					*	1,400,000
						0					*	0
								850,000			*	850,000
								850,000			*	850,000
									1,000,000		*	1,000,000
									1,000,000		*	1,000,000
										10,000,000	*	10,000,000
										10,000,000	*	10,000,000
											*	0
											*	0
TOTAL COST OF ALL PROJECTS		0	230,000	850,000	0	2,070,000	1,265,000	850,000	1,000,000	10,000,000	0	16,265,000
TOTAL TO BE BONDED		0	230,000	350,000	0	670,000	715,000	850,000	1,000,000	10,000,000	0	13,815,000



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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: August 18, 2020

RE: Monthly park update and field report

We have had a very hot and humid month, followed by the windstorm which has consumed a significant amount of our time. Sports groups have been active and so far the Covid related modifications have been going well. We were called in to assist Public Works on constructing a new entrance into the Police Department. During the storm aftermath our crews assisted by delivering drinking water to numerous locations as well as assisting the Police Department hiking to inaccessible areas to complete wellness checks on isolated residents.

Dickinson Park: The tennis court resurfacing project has been completed. New nets and signage has the facility looking great. Pickleball lines have been painted on two of the renovated courts. We will strip and coat the basketball court later this fall. A lot of storm damage throughout has been cleaned up, although we are still waiting for assistance from Public Works with the bucket truck.

Weekly set up for concerts, including the painting of social distancing circles, has been going well.

All of the fencing and tents in place for camp have been broken down and removed.



Newtown Middle School: Storm cleanup has been completed and regular field grooming continues.

Orchard Hill: Storm damage has been completed here.

Lake Lillinonah: A new sign has been installed on the dock here and storm damage cleanup has been completed.

Oakview: A water main break here was repaired and a new acid injection pump was installed in place of a failed unit.

Tilson Field: One line on the new field has a loose edge. Field Turf will be repairing this in the coming two weeks.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: Two loose lines on this field will be repaired in the next two weeks. Sports groups have started using lights and the softball field is being groomed on a regular basis.

Glander Fields: We lost a dugout on Glander 1 from the storm. The dugout cleanup has been completed but a replacement plan is needed. Dugout construction on Glander 3 was planned to start this week however with storm cleanup this has been postponed. All three fields are being groomed on a regular basis.

Liberty Fields: These fields are in good shape and are being groomed on a regular basis. Storm cleanup has been completed here and we are in the process of renovating/tilling the clay on lower liberty.

Walnut Tree: Lip removal has been completed here. There was little damage here from the storm as the perimeter trees were pruned this past spring.

Fairfield Hills: Storm damage and cleanup here has taken a significant effort. Approximately 50% of our cleanup efforts were focused on the campus.

Permanent signage related to the outdoor bathrooms and new covid signs have been installed. Social distancing stencils continue to be chalked on the trail.

High Meadow Field which was fraize mowed early in June is still doing well. The field can be opened at any time as needed by sports organization.



NHS Fields: These fields are in good shape. Minor cleanup was required after the storm. These fields have been fertilized and overseeded in anticipation of a possible fall sports season.

Sandy Hook School: An irrigation leak has been repaired and many boxes that were cracked have been replaced. Baseball is using the field on a regular basis.

Hawley School Fields: Some storm cleanup was completed here as well as some topsoil repair of ruts made by utility trucks.

Eichlers Cove Marina: There was limited access here following the storm due to a tree across the road. There was plenty of storm clean up here although there was no real damage from big trees. A round of dock repair has been completed from the failing section as well as the rubber edging on many slips.

Dog Park: Typical storm cleanup was completed after the storm although there was not any major damage here

Treadwell Park: Tables have been put back and tents are down following the end of camp. There was a fair amount of storm cleanup here and getting the pool back up and running was a challenge following 9 days of no power. A couple of minor issues remain here but at this point we are in good shape.

All of the picnic tables were unbolted and removed for camp. All of the beds were mulched. The pool was opened and balanced. The pool gutters were painted since our new gutters have yet to arrive due to Covid delays. Things seem to be running smooth here although we have a few minor items to touch up here.

Pole Bridge Preserve: Storm damage has been completed here.

Watertown Field: We completed all of the topsoil hauling and laser grading of the field. We are now ready to install irrigation and finally seeding. A new backstop will be erected later this fall.





Staff:

- 216 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1680 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 13% loss in workforce.