

**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 an in-person meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 with an opportunity for phone- in public participation, in the multi-purpose room of the Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clinton DePaolo at 6:04 pm.

**Present:** Clinton DePaolo, Aaron Britton, Jim Parker, Rance Thompson and Warren Spencer.

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

**Absent:** David Payne and Vincent Yanni

**Public:** Ms. Alexa Larsen, Victory Garden & Fruit Trail Volunteer  
211 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT 06801  
Ms. Jan Brown, Newtown Pickleball Ambassador  
15 Lori Lynn Circle, Newtown, CT 06470

**Public Participation:**

Ms. Alexa Larsen joined the meeting in person to update the commission on her grant writing pursuits. Unfortunately, due to vandalism, all of her hard work is missing. She is committed to fighting this injustice, and is seeking support from the commission in paying for much needed documents to resolve the matter so that she can move forward with her grant writing. Parks and Recreation Director, Amy Mangold, reminded Ms. Larsen that she has directed her to Social Services to help determine eligibility for assistance. On another note, Ms. Larsen also made a suggestion that Newtown Parks and Recreation should explore the possibility of working with other towns toward an interpark pass where membership could be reciprocal. Ms. Mangold thanked Ms. Larsen for her commitment to Parks & Recreation and the community as a whole.

Ms. Jan Brown, Newtown's Pickleball Ambassador, asked the commission for their guidance in getting more pickleball courts up and running at Fairfield Hills. Ms. Brown mentioned how the two pickleball courts near the ambulance building on the Fairfield Hills campus is constantly busy. Ms. Brown would love to inquire about having those two courts resurfaced and made into four courts. She even rigged it over the summer with her own portable nets to help more people be able to play. Directors Mangold and Samuelson also mentioned that the parking lot would be a difficult location to get permanent approval so other locations would have to be carefully examined. What Ms. Brown really wanted to know was whether or not she is wasting her time to try to have this accomplished. Both Director Mangold and Commission Chairman DePaolo explained that she would have more support from the various boards moving a pickleball project forward, if she formed one single grassroots pickleball organization to attain

this goal rather than many independent voices. Commissioner Thompson explained that although they still have to go through all the proper channels, one vision helps tremendously. Ms. Mangold suggested having fundraisers to help fund the project, while Chairman DePaolo stated that the commission would lend their full support should enough interest be shown.

#### **Acceptance of Minutes:**

**Commissioner Clinton DePaolo tabled accepting the Minutes of the December 8, 2020 Commission meeting until next month's meeting. It was necessary to do so as they lacked a quorum of commissioners who attended the December meeting.**

#### **Old Business:**

- *Budget: (attachment #1).* Parks and Recreation Director Mangold distributed budget information, pointing out that there are very few increases. What was increased was mandatory, case in point; seasonal employment for the summer increased 1.4% to the tune of \$3,481 because of minimum wage increases. General maintenance budget increased by \$500 due to the increased usage of dog cleanup bags with the growing use of the trails at Fairfield Hills during the pandemic. The capital line item was the only increase. Chairman DePaolo and Director Mangold are meeting with First Selectman, Dan Rosenthal about the budget on Wednesday, January 13. Assistant Director Carl Samuelson pointed out that it is Parks and Recreation's lowest capital request in five years. Director Mangold pointed out that the capital increase looks larger due to a June 4<sup>th</sup> transfer of \$56,875 to the capital non-recurring budget. (Please see attachment #1). Newly appointed commissioner, Jim Parker asked how projects get moved to a priority item, to which Chairman DePaolo explained that throughout the summer, a group consensus is formed, and come autumn, they start to iron out which needs become priority capital improvement projects (CIP). The entire department remains quite fluid as they are always reprioritizing and finding accounts that are dog-eared for important projects that may arise.

#### **New Business:**

- *New Commissioners welcomed:* Newly elected Chairman, Clinton DePaolo welcomed two new members to the commission. They are Mr. Aaron Britton and Mr. Jim Parker. Mr. Britton is a Newtown resident and father of two young children. He was the Director of the Wilton YMCA for years and after taking medical leave, missed the involvement that recreation entails. For this reason, he decided to get involved with the Parks and Recreation Commission. Chairman DePaolo stated that they are absolutely thrilled to have Mr. Britton on board. Mr. Jim Parker is the other new commissioner. A long time Newtown resident, he was very active in both Newtown basketball and baseball (where he met Commissioner Spencer). Mr. Parker also mentioned that he has gotten to know Assistant Director of Recreation, RoseAnn Reggiano over the years. Ms. Reggiano noted how he and his kids won Parks and Recreation's basketball Turkey Shoot many times. The entire commission noted how pleased they were to have Mr. Parker

and Mr. Britton. Chairman DePaolo explained to the new commissioners that they soon will learn how Parks and Recreation spins gold out of next to nothing budget-wise thanks to the efforts of many in the department and on the commission, not to mention, the support of townspeople and businesses who have championed our fundraisers, scholarships and events throughout the years.

- *2021 Commission Meeting Schedule: (see attachment #2)*

**MOTION:**

**Acceptance of 2021 Commission Meeting Schedule:**

**Commissioner Warren Spencer made a motion to accept the 2021 Commission Meeting Schedule as proposed. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.**

**Correspondence:**

- *None.*

**Chairman's Report:**

*Clinton DePaolo, Chairman Newtown Parks and Recreation:*

- *Chairman DePaolo expressed the need to add a Parks and Recreation Commission Vice-Chairman to next month's agenda. Mr. DePaolo encouraged any commissioner who might be interested to please let him or Director Mangold know as soon as possible.*

**Director's Report:**

*Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:*

- Ms. Mangold needed to start off by sharing the devastating loss of 28 year old, Thomas Cappaziello. Tom was instrumental in the development of the beloved skatepark. The skatepark, that impacts so many, simply would not have come to fruition if it had not been for Tom. One of the top skateboarders in the state, Tom mentored and taught young boarders as our camp skateboarding instructor, in addition to being an ambassador of sorts. Ms. Mangold reported that she could always count on Tom to keep an eye out for any child or adult that needed support at the skatepark. The department is truly devastated about this heartbreaking loss. The outpouring of calls, emails and social media messages that Ms. Mangold has received have been heartwarming. It is clear how beloved and respected Tom was to all who knew him. Parks and Recreation is compiling a file from the tremendous response so they can best memorialize Tom at the skatepark, knowing that only time can truly ease the pain.
- Ms. Mangold then welcomed the new commissioners and said that she is really looking forward to growing and working with them both.
- Ms. Mangold, along with Ms. Reggiano and Mr. Samuelson wrote a letter that went into the Parks and Recreation Winter Brochure. In it, they explained the enormous contribution that the Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman Emeritus, Ed Marks has made to Newtown Parks and Recreation – and to the entire Newtown Community. They went on in the letter, with the blessings of First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, to announce an

initiative to raise funds to establish a fitting tribute to Mr. Marks' amazing dedication and contributions to the department and to the community.

- The department is moving ahead to fill one of the two vacant positions. As previously addressed, Parks and Recreation has been down one part-time secretarial position and one full time secretarial position. They are currently interviewing for the part-time position that would serve the department, most importantly, Mr. Samuelson at the Trades Lane location. As Parks and Recreation moves into their busiest season of the year, Ms. Mangold will, once again, be seeking to fill the full time position that has been vacant for almost a year, putting a strain on the department. It results in an inability to reach their goals and to perform at their highest level.
- Parks and Recreation was grateful to partner with the Senior Center on two events: A holiday concert for the seniors who stayed in their cars listening through their radios. They were also given a snack and craft while they enjoyed the live music of Kyle and Shaun Mangold, who were phenomenal. The seniors enjoyed it very much, and the Mangold brothers donated their time and holiday spirit for all. The other event was a virtual dance party with DJ Kevin Burland, who also donated his time. All of the participants really enjoyed learning the new dance moves that Kevin shared. Both events were resounding successes.
- Ms. Mangold reported that many boat slips have already been rented for the 2021 boating season, and the waiting list is already substantial. In explaining some P & R history with the new commissioners, she told them how Eichler's Cove has a special revenue fund not listed so is not included in Parks & Recreation's budget. With the research of Commissioner Vincent Yanni and Selectman Maureen Crick Owen, Parks and Recreation has managed the marina as a self-sustaining business, including warden and lifeguard salaries and special maintenance projects. Currently, there are 87 boat slips, 8 jetski slips and 36 dry storage spots for kayaks and canoes. It has been run efficiently, and because of this, improvements have already been made since Parks and Recreation has taken it over. Bathrooms are the next amenity to be added. Mr. Samuelson explained that he has researched a "Composting Toilet Solution" for seasonal toilets down at Eichler's Cove. The tank only needs to get bumped twice per year, and it also supports the Sustainable Connecticut initiative. Chairman DePaolo then asked if the commission could get a balance from the Eichler's Cove fund so they can best decide how to proceed with future expenses and projects.
- Director Mangold then took a little extra time to explain some long-term projects to Mr. Parker and Mr. Britton. The Town of Newtown is working toward a bronze award from Sustainable Connecticut, a committee in which Ms. Mangold serves. Ms. Mangold has also applied for a grant from Active Connecticut to connect bicycle trails to other communities, which is also a part of Newtown's Sustainable Connecticut priorities.

### **Assistant Director's Reports:**

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

- The "Mason Jar Decorating Contest" was a success even though there were not many submissions. Once they were on display, much interest was generated, however. Because of this, she is sure that participation will increase each year. Every jar won a prize with the most votes going to an adorable Snowman Jar, so they received the largest prize in the form of a Parks & Recreation Gift Basket.

- Sabrina Style won the Newtown Shop Small Decoration Crawl. Ms. Reggiano, Chrystal Preszler and Ms. Mangold met with the Newtown Bee at Sabrina Style to present them with their prize. It was a huge success with emails pouring in to the committee from pleased small business owners. It was a pleasure working with Newtown's Economic & Community Development Organization, Ms. Reggiano said.
- Work is underway on the spring and summer programs. People will be able to register right away for planning purposes, as numbers will, likely, still be limited due to Covid, she stated.
- CRPA is keeping Parks & Recreation Departments informed about Governor released Covid updates.
- Torpedoes Swim Team had been put on hold in the middle of the season, so the swim team will now be finishing up in April. Everyone is thrilled to be back in the pool on January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- We are communicating with the Fairfield Hills Authority about holding some dates for special events (as other organizations are booking dates, as well).
- Pickleball lessons and open play at Edmond Town Hall are beginning on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The use of Sandy Hook Elementary School has been lost due to Covid, so they have been getting extra use out of the Edmond Town Hall on the makeshift courts.
- Ms. Reggiano is coordinating with Ian from the Newtown Youth Academy about partnering in some extra programs since the schools are not available to outside use at this time.
- They have also been using the Teen Center quite a bit more due to lack of school use.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks: (See attachment #3)

- *Please see attachment.*

**Commissioners out and about:**

- *None.*

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Warren Spencer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm. Commissioner Jim Parker seconded the motion. All voted in favor to adjourn the meeting.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the Multi-purpose Room located at 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT unless changed to virtual due to Covid restrictions.

Submitted by,

*Kate Geerer, clerk*

To access a recording of this meeting, please copy and paste the following URL into your Internet browser: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1jzKxXx4u9ZFzz8zCzi-BdfTU9EXDz-r>

**Capital**

**DEPARTMENT: PARKS & RECREATION**

**2020-2021 Newtown Parks & Recreation Capital Budget**

Priority	Proposed by Dept Head	Reduced by Commission	Approved by P & R Commission	Adjusted by 1st Selectman	Proposed by First Selectman	Description
1	Toro 5910 Lease	24,500	-	24,500	(24,500)	Annual external lease payment (#1 of 5) for 16 foot mower.
2	Toro 4700 Rotary Athletic Field Mower w/Lease	14,500	-	14,500	-	Annual internal lease payment (#5 of 5) for 14 ft rotary mower - replaces previous town-owned vehicle (Cheney Astro)
3	Lease Department Van (Chrysler Pacifica)	7,000	-	7,000	7,000	First Selectman proposes a F350 or similar dump truck with plow \$65,000 or \$13,000 Annually for 5 years. Internal lease 1 of 5. (P & R proposed a F550 for \$105,000 or \$21,000 annually)
4	Lease Replacement for 2006 F550 Truck	21,000	-	21,000	(8,000)	Yearly replacements for old units beyond repair (daily-use equipment).
5	Cut Off Saw/Weed Eaters/Back Pack Blowers	5,000	-	5,000	-	Lease (external) tractor capable of handling department attachments, replacing 19 year old tractor too small for department use.
6	Lease new Turf Tractor in place of rental	21,125	-	21,125	(21,125)	Purchase second Z mower requested in prior fiscal year to replace 12 year old unit beyond useful service life.
7	Replace 1 Z-Turn Mowers	22,000	-	22,000	(5,125)	Use trade in value of Toro 5910 (above) = \$24,000
8	Toro Groundraster 1200	-	-	-	-	
9	Treadwell Paver Plaza	22,000	-	22,000	-	Complete Treadwell paver plaza between pool house and pavilion which is currently dilapidated stone, grave and concrete.
10	Lake Lillinoah feasibility study 2018 items	15,000	-	15,000	(15,000)	Complete a comprehensive study of improving the Lake Lillinoah park with boat slips, pavilion, fuel and expanded parking.
11	Skatepark Maintenance & Expansion	60,000	(60,000)	-	-	Returbish certain park components and install new feature
12	Disc Golf Course at Treadwell Park	25,000	(25,000)	-	-	Implement consultants plan for disc golf course, provide healthy passive recreation and expansion of Treadwell Park facilities.
13	Pocket Park Study	30,000	(30,000)	-	-	Study to access needs, location & Equipment for possible pocket parks in Newtown (Hawleyville, Dodgingtown areas)
14	Bicycle playground at Fairfield Hills Safety & Security Lighting FFH High Meadow & Treadwell Fields	40,000	(40,000)	-	-	Design, install and construct a bicycle playground at Fairfield Hills campus
15	Toro Dingo Or Similar Trencher	4,800	(4,800)	-	-	Install security lights on lighting towers at FFH High Meadow Field and Treadwell Fields
16	Bobcat Tool Cat	35,000	(35,000)	-	-	Trencher and Post/hole auger system needed to expedite coduit and post installs. Compact unit for working in tight spaces.
17	Monitoring system	52,000	(52,000)	-	-	Replace now unreliable 2004 model with current model containing upgraded hydraulics.
18	Dickinson Park Security Camera & Monitoring system	65,000	(65,000)	-	-	Install comprehensive security and cameras at Dickinson Park
	<b>Total</b>	<b>528,925</b>	<b>(376,800)</b>	<b>152,125</b>	<b>(73,750)</b>	<b>78,375</b>

**\$56,875 REDUCTION**

Vehicle inventory list is on page 305.

**June 4, 2020 transfer to capital non-recurring & approved uses:**

Transfer	922,175
	<u>700,000</u>
	<u><u>1,622,175</u></u>

**Approved uses:**

PW - Capital road improvements	125,000
PW - Over the rail tractor/mower	135,000
PW - Medium duty dump truck (see 2020-21 budget detail)	38,000
PW - Medium duty service truck (see 2020-21 budget detail)	30,000
BLDG MAINT - Powered handicapped doors for municipal ctr	13,000
BLDG MAINT - Continue window abatement and refurbish	24,000
Police - Vehicle	45,000
Fire - Turn out gear/air packs	169,125
FHA - Campus safety improvements	49,000
P & R - Internal lease (1 of 5) for F350 or similar with plow	13,000
P & R - Cut off saw/weed eaters/back pack blowers	5,000
P & R - Replace 1 Z turn mower	16,875
P & R - Treadwell paver plaza	22,000
Library - IT equipment	20,000
Assessor - Revaluation	126,000
Sandy Hook School Project (close out)	251,175
IT - Upgrade firewall & HP main switch	90,000
Board of Education - Capital	<u>450,000</u>
	<u><u>1,622,175</u></u>

56,875



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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
[www.newtown-ct.gov](http://www.newtown-ct.gov)

### 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings will be held in the multi-purpose room at the Senior Center,  
8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT 06470 at 6:00pm

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

TOWN HALL SOUTH  
3 MAIN STREET  
NEWTOWN, CT 06470  
TEL. (203) 270-4340  
FAX (203) 270-4333



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 12, 2021

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

We have been repairing some recent vandalism, replacing signs and starting large brush/invasive removal projects. The annual holiday display has been removed for the season and the delayed luminary night went well and as did the clean up.

Winter equipment refurbishing is ongoing as well. We complete all required preventative maintenance as well as tackle and larger repairs/refurbishment that was put off during the season. The big trees that fell on Al's Trail this fall were cut up and removed.

Our annual reporting to the State for water and pesticide use has been completed and submitted.

**Dickinson Park:** Bathroom vandalism has been repaired here. Door deadbolts were added and the damaged partitions were repaired.

**Newtown Middle School:** No new news here.

**Orchard Hill:** Storm damage that we had only moved from the trails from the summer and fall has been cleaned up. The crew is now working on invasive removal from the meadow areas here.

**Lake Lillinonah:** The seawall here will be repaired once some other projects have been completed.

**Oakview:** No new news here.

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

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

**Glander Fields:** We need to discuss dugout repair plan.

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

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

**Fairfield Hills:** Worked with Public Works to mark out parking and clean up around Kent House for the laser light event. Leaf and brush clean up was completed. Meadow mowing has started and will be ongoing during the winter when weather allows. Topsoil and debris was removed from Newsylum construction. Vacant building stairwells were filled in in cooperation with public works. We made a new "Covid" template which we mark on the walking trail when needed, weather permitting.

**NHS Fields:** All goals were removed and locked off of the fields.

**Sandy Hook School:** No new news here.

**Hawley School Fields:** No new news here.

**Eichlers Cove Marina:** All is quiet.

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

**Treadwell Park:** The walls in camp building have been patched. Guys are prepping floors and walls for paint. Some minor plumbing repairs are being done in the bathroom as well.

**Pole Bridge Preserve:** No new news here. Guys will be doing clean up here after Orchard Hill is complete.

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

Staff:

- 376 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1936 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 19.5% loss in workforce.