

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:06 pm.

Present: Edward Marks, Patrick Barczak, Maureen Crick Owen, Linda Hess, Warren Spencer

Absent: Vincent Yanni, Jr., PJ Yochum

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: None

Public Participation: None

Acceptance of Minutes:

Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen made a motion to accept the Minutes from April 11, 2017 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion.

- There was a correction made under *Old Business; Community Center*: The second sentence should read: Ms. Mangold stated that First Selectman Pat Llodra invited Quisenberry Arcari (architects), Caldwell and Walsh (project managers) and members of the Public Building and Site Commission to do a presentation on the overall Community Center project.
- The word none was added under *Correspondence*.
- Under *Director's Report* second bullet, the 3rd sentence was changed to: Mr. Samuelson also attended a meeting with the Conservation Commission regarding the Meadow Management Project.
- Under Assistant Director of Parks, 6th bullet: the word lite in the 3rd sentence was changed to lit.

All voted in favor of the amended minutes.

Acceptance of May 9, 2017 minutes were tabled until July 11, 2017 commission meeting.

Old Business:

- *Community Center:*
Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen stated that there is a community Center meeting every week. The next step is to go through Land Use and the P&Z process. On July 6, 2017 the team would like to present to P&Z. The pool consultant was at the meeting last week talking about the community pool and lap pool. There was also discussion on handicap accessibility and pool features. Tonight the design review board, FFH Authority and Sustainability Energy groups are meeting with the architects. The architects will be making a presentation to the group primarily for recommendations. There are 5 sub committees that have been derived from the community center advisory group. One of the committees is promotional. Another subcommittee is the Organizational Structure group, in which Ms. Crick Owen and Ms. Mangold along with Bill Bucher and Carla Kron are members. This committee will study the management structure for the Community Center. The committee needs to present two options to the advisory committee. The advisory committee will then make recommendations to the Board of Selectman.

- **Surcharge/Gift Fund Account:**
Mr. Marks presented a report of a list of gift fund accounts to the commission. Mr. Marks attained this report from Finance Director Bob Tait. Mr. Marks stated that per Mr. Tait, the commission can request for finance to set up sub accounts for any approved funds to track expenses of a project. The commission had a brief discussion on each gift fund account. Going forward the commission would like to see a brief description under each account. If donations have been designated for certain conditions, then there should be an explanation or description of that. The commission requested that the P&R team take a look at each account and add a description. Mr. Marks requested for that summary to be completed in the next 1 or 2 meetings, so we can eliminate some of the non-active accounts

New Business:

- **Capital – Eichler’s Cove Project:**
Mr. Samuelson stated that the original plan at Eichler’s Cove was to design the parking lot with as few retaining walls as possible and the original budget was based on that plan. In order for the design company to meet the goal of more parking spots of more parking spots they had to add more retaining walls. The addition of more retaining walls added to the cost of the project and caused it to go slightly over budget. Mr. Samuelson stated that the commission might need to make a quick motion to approve to the remainder of the capital project from the Eichler’s Cove account. The commission also talked about phase II parking area at Eichler’s Cove.

Correspondence:

- Ms. Mangold received a thank you note from Scott McLean thanking Parks and Recreation for nominating him for the Lee Davenson Memorial Scholarship. Ms. Mangold explained to the commission that Lee Davenson was a former P&R Director and the funds are raised thru the annual P&R Rooster Run.
- Ms. Mangold received a letter from the Newtown Forest Association thanking her for the letter of recommendation for The National Land Trust Alliance award for best volunteer land trusts.
- Ms. Mangold received an email from Jan Brown and Jim Wright regarding the need for more pickleball courts. The email included a diagram showing that 4 pickleball courts can be laid out in the space of one tennis court. The email stated that, “if pickleball popularity continues to grow, consideration might be given to converting the tennis court closest to the existing pickleball court into four pickleball courts” at Treadwell Park. The commission discussed at length the demand for pickle ball courts and some short term solutions and long term goals.
- Ms. Chernoff received an email from one of Eichler’s Cove boat slip renters, thanking P&R for helping obtain their boat slip and state that they are enjoying the lake very much. They also included a picture Eichler’s Cove boat slip and beach area.

Director’s Report

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson continue to work on Union negotiations for the Park Maintainers.

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- Ms. Reggiano expressed that the office has been very busy selling pool/beach passes and processing registrations for summer camps and activities.
- Summer Day Camp is starting on June 26, 2017 and runs for 7 weeks.
- Ms. Reggiano has been busy hiring and training summer staff. She hired a new Site Director for Treadwell Park.
- On May 13th approximately 40 dogs attended the annual Strutt Your Mutt event, which raised \$1,000.00.

- Mad Dash is this Saturday, June 17, 2017 from 7:30 am to 11:00 am. Maureen Crick Owen and Warren Spencer volunteered to help with this event.
- The Food Truck Event is on Saturday, June 17, 2017 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Ms. Reggiano was soliciting for volunteers. Many of the commissioners volunteered to help out with both Mad Dash and Food Truck events.
- Ms. Reggiano explained to the commission that the Newtown Middle School is shutting down for the summer for abatement work. Ms. Reggiano had to move all programs out of the Middle School to the other schools.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

See attachment

- Mr. Samuelson stated that the staff is very busy!
- The pool pumps that were ordered for Treadwell Pool have been delivered. The crew is waiting for a cool or rainy day to replace the pumps. The pool will need to be closed for 1.5 days.
- Mr. Samuelson and Ms. Mangold have been meeting with Leaps of Faith and continue discussions regarding permanent space and moving towards a lease agreement. The commission was in agreement that as the process moves forward, that it shouldn't be put into action until all the phases have been approved.
- Mr. Samuelson stated that the street scape has started at Fairfield Hills. The maintainers have planted 14 of the 16 trees allotted.
- Mr. Samuelson stated that the mowing at Sandy Hook School is very labor intensive and is taking a lot of time.
- There has been vandalism to the sensor to the lightning system at Treadwell Park and is in the process of being repaired. Mr. Samuelson described how the lightning system works. Mr. Marks suggested that we should test the system at the beginning of each sports season at games and practices, so coaches, parents and players understand how the system works and what it sounds like.

Commissioners out and about:

None

Motion:

Commissioner Patrick Barczak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Linda Hess, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Explores Room located at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

Submitted by,

Gabriella Chernoff, clerk



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: June 13, 2017

RE: Monthly park update and field report

Sorry no pictures this month.....Spring sports coming to a close and travel seasons are beginning. The pool is open and in full swing and boating season has our launch facilities very busy as well.

Dickinson Park: The new parking lot is working out well. The planting have all been completed and the grass is filling in.

Orchard Hill: No new news here. Emptying the garbage more often is working out well.

Lake Lillinonah: The dock is in and things are all set here. LOF had a training day here this past Saturday and all seemed to go well.

Glander Fields: Things are going well here. Our staff is working on some punch list items as well as helping Babe Ruth prep for new batting cages as well as a scoreboard.

Liberty Fields: These fields are open and in good shape. Regular grooming continues.

Oakview: No new news here. Things are in good shape and running well. The beds have been weeded and the roses have started to bloom. One of the backstop nets was stolen here a couple of weeks ago.

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. We have continued to work on an agreement with LOF for temporary and permanent usage.

Fairfield Hills: Fields are all in use on a daily basis. The Street Scape project is underway and the crew is very busy setting up for the Mad Dash and Food truck Festival. We planted 14 of the scheduled 16 trees this past month here as well as some fragrant Viburnums on the islands near the Municipal Office Building.

NHS Fields: The school teams have been using these fields daily as expected. We aereated these fields this week and will be overseeding as well.

Dog Park: Things are good here. The damaged water fountain has been repaired. Two new trees have been planted here as well.

Treadwell Park: The small playground area is complete. Parking lot work has begun. Work has been scheduled to minimize any impacts with Day Camps if at all. All of the beds have been weeded and the playgrounds have new safety fiber installed.

Our new pool pumps have arrived which we will install if we have a rainy stretch in the next couple of weeks.

Eichlers Cove Marina: The parking lot seems has been getting rave reviews although with added docks and popularity space remains a concern. We have a few solutions ready in the event we need to.

Staff:

- 176 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1920 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 9.25% loss in workforce.