

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a special in-person meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2021 with an opportunity for phone – in public participation, in the multipurpose room of the Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clinton DePaolo at 6:07pm

Present: Clinton DePaolo, Aaron Britton, David Payne, Warren Spencer, Rance Thompson

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson

Absent: Jim Parker, Vincent Yanni, RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: Mr. James Twitchell- 4 Rooster Ridge Road, Newtown, CT 06470
Mr. Michael Bonacci- 12 Meridian Ridge Drive, Newtown, CT 06470

Public Participation:

- *None*

New Business:

- *Softball Groups:*
 - Mr. James Twitchell came to the commission seeking a waiver to be able to have a U10 rec team this fall season for the girls who did not make travel as well as a waiver to the 80/20% threshold requirement for the team. If the requests are fulfilled Newtown Thunder would have a total of 7 teams and 3 fields.
 - Mr. Carl Samuelson noted that the group was originally only approved for 1 U11 team in July of 2015 due to its unique purpose (*Attachment #1*). He also mentioned that there had been much discussion over the years about if the group is a travel or rec team as the organization had grown. He pointed out how at this point both Newtown Thunder and Babe Ruth Softball are trying to field rec teams but neither are unique to their use. There have not been any further waivers since the one made in 2015.
 - Mr. Twitchell explained that Thunder was originally formed from Babe Ruth Softball because there was a unique group of girls.
 - Mr. Warren Spencer expressed how he understands the situation but made it known that until this meeting he was unaware that Thunder had more than one team and said the program has morphed into something it was not approved for and asked if they could rejoin Babe Ruth Softball.
 - Mr. Michael Bonacci stated that if one group dismantled, whether it is Babe Ruth or Thunder, the girls would not go to the other they would go out of town instead.
 - Mr. Samuelson asked Mr. Twitchell and Mr. Bonacci if they have a full team for this fall yet or still need girls? Mr. Bonacci confirmed they have a full team signed up and ready to go.

- Mr. Rance Thompson expressed his concern that other teams may come forth wanting the same waiver and will expect it since it was given to Thunder. Mr. Samuelson said that if there was a definitive date given for Thunder to return to full travel then that could be avoided. Mr. Spencer also expressed concern of the domino effect.
- Chairman Clinton DePaolo entertained a motion to waive the 80% threshold for the Newtown residents for both the Thunder and Babe Ruth Softball until October 31, 2021 but no action was taken.
- Commissioner Aaron Britton made a motion to extend the waiver for Thunder to have an additional U10 team until October 31, 2021, the motion was not seconded and failed.
- After further deliberation Thunder was denied the additional team and of their request to waive the threshold requirements.
- *CIP Discussion:* Chairman Clinton DePaolo started by handing out a copy of CIP data tables to the members of items that have been asked for in the past (*Attachment #2*). He went over the things that have been put on and discussed for CIP before and noted that some projects that could be done on the Fairfield Hills Campus may be more difficult but suggested looking at other projects for CIP such as the Teen center or Treadwell. Ms. Amy Mangold pointed out that they have had big projects for CIP in the past that have gotten bumped and put on the back burner and reminded everyone to keep that in mind. Mr. Carl Samuelson explained that some of the parts on the Treadwell playground are no longer available to replace when they get broken and that those features will be soon taken out completely. It was agreed among the commission members to go more in depth on CIP discussion at next month's meeting 9/14/21.

Motions:

- Chairman Clinton DePaolo entertained a motion to waive the 80% threshold for the Newtown residents for both the Thunder and Babe Ruth Softball until October 31, 2021 but no action was taken.
- Commissioner Aaron Britton made a motion to extend the waiver for Thunder to have an additional U10 team until October 31, 2021, the motion was not seconded and failed.

Adjournment of Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm

The next regular meeting is scheduled of Tuesday, September 14, 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,

Victoria Weimann, Clerk

Minutes from July 14, 2015

Mr. James Twitchell and Mr. James Haynes, with Newtown Fastpitch Softball Association

Mr. James Twitchell and Mr. James Haynes came before the board to follow up on a previously requested field waiver for the Newtown Fastpitch Softball Association and field time going forward. Mr. Twitchell explained that Fastpitch was previously a travel team with Newtown Babe Ruth U11. The team departed from Babe Ruth to stay together as a team, which is not part of the Babe Ruth policy. Mr. Twitchell went on to explain that the team is currently made up of 100% Newtown players. The original plan was not to utilize Newtown fields; however, the fields they were using in the spring were under dispute between owner of the place and the owner of the property, which left Fastpitch in limbo. Their full summer season ends August 1st, with limited practices until the end of August, when there will be tryouts. Chairman Marks inquired on how the team is selected when there is a vacancy? Mr. Twitchell responded that there will be a tryout for all positions, keeping the roster between 12 to 13 girls.

Motion:

Commissioner Patrick Barczak made a motion to approve Summer 2015 waiver for field use for the Fastpitch Softball Association. Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. second the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion:

Chairman Edward Marks made a motion to approve Minutes from April 14, 2015 Commission Meeting. PJ Yochum second the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Chairman Edward Marks made a motion to approve Minutes from May 12, 2015 Commission meeting. Commissioner Patrick Barczak second the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Due to a lack of a quorum at June 17, 2015 commission meeting, no formal action was taken and just notes were taken.

New Business:

None

Correspondence:

Director Amy Mangold received an email stating: "Thanks so much the field looks great thanks so much. Pass on to your staff", Bobby Elias

CIP Items:

Previous CIP items:
Treadwell Park Improvements
Teen Center Renovation
Playground Replacement Treadwell
FFH Duplex Remediation to support P&R Programming
Bike Trails- rails, to trails, mountain bike trails, street bike lanes
Dickinson Park Expansion- purchase of adjoining residence (when available)
BMX Track at Batchelder
Wetland Education at Dickinson Park
Operating Budget Items:
Disc Golf Course
Irrigation at Walnut Tree Field
Gates at Lake Lillonoah and Orchard Hill
Portable Bandstage
Bocce Courts
Complete Watertown Field Complex with Parking
Outdoor Volleyball Courts
Raise NMS Baseball Field to make more usable
Field Replacements
Eichlers' Cove Rentals
Farm/Orchard Park
Pole Bridge Preserve Improvements

Previous CIP Items, removed:
Splashpad
FFH Recreation Plan Phase 1
FFH Campus Enhancements
Duplex/Plymouth Hall Renovation
Treadwell Park Expansion
FFH Field Plan Phase 2
Operating Budget Items, Removed:
FFH Outdoor Fitness Center
Other Items:
Dickinson Pavillion
Maintenance Yard Improvements
Lake Lillonoah Improvements
Pickleball at FFH

On CIP At One Point

Previous CIP Approved by Park & Rec Commission:

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												
DEPARTMENT:	Parks & Recreation	PROJECT COST - TOTAL / BONDED										
Item #	Capital Item	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	2030/2031	Total
Item 1	Fairfield Hills Pickleball Courts		230,000		*						*	230,000
			230,000		*						*	230,000
Item 2	Fairfield Hills Trail Plan - Final Phase			350,000	*						*	350,000
				350,000	*						*	350,000
Item 3	Lake Lillonoah Park Improvements			500,000	*						*	500,000
				0	*						*	0
Item 4	Maintenance Yard Abatement & Regulatory Compliance				NO BONDING	670,000					NO BONDING	670,000
					NO BONDING	670,000					NO BONDING	670,000
Item 5	Teen Center Renovation (property sale issue)				*		465,000				*	465,000
					*		465,000				*	465,000
Item 6	Treadwell Artificial Turf & Lighting Replacement				*		800,000				*	800,000
					*		250,000				*	250,000
Item 7	Dickinson Park Water Playground				*			850,000			*	850,000
					*			850,000			*	850,000
Item 8	Rail Trail - Batchelder Park				*	1,400,000					*	1,400,000
					*	0					*	0
Item 9	Treadwell Park Playground Replacement				*			1,000,000			*	1,000,000
					*			1,000,000			*	1,000,000
Item 10	Duplex/Plymouth Hall Renovation/Remediation				*				10,000,000		*	10,000,000
					*				10,000,000		*	10,000,000
Item 11					*						*	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	16,255,000
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

Actual CIP 2021-2031

Parks & Recreation				
Treadwell Artificial Turf & Lighting Replacement:	P & R - 1		800,000	800,000
Bonding			250,000	250,000
Other			550,000	550,000
Rail Trail - Batchelder Park	P & R - 2		1,400,000	1,400,000
Grants			1,400,000	1,400,000
Lake Lillonoah Park Improvements	P & R - 3	500,000		500,000
Other		500,000		500,000
Parks & Recreation Total		500,000	2,200,000	2,700,000