

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, October 13, 2020 with an opportunity for phone in public participation, in the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Garage on 2 Trades Lane, Newtown, CT.

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

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

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, RoseAnn Reggiano and Carl Samuelson

Absent: Warren Spencer

Public: Maureen Crick Owen, Newtown Selectman
Mr. Richard Deickman, Fairfield County Captain's Travel Baseball Program
Ms. Alexa Larson, Victory Garden and Fruit Trail

Public Participation:

Mr. Richard Deickman phoned in to inquire about future rental of Newtown Fields by Fairfield County Captain's Travel Baseball. Mr. Deickman was interested in 50/70 size ball fields for their 12 and under players. Commission Chairman Marks asked; "what amount of field use are you in need of, as Newtown is down one 50/70 field as is?" to which Mr. Deickman said six home games in the spring and 8 home games in the summer, plus three practices every two weeks, on average. After discussion, Mr. Marks advised that he phone back in February/March to see what can be done for their 12 and under team.

Ms. Alexa Larson joined the meeting in person to inquire the protocol to introduce needed items to the Capital Improvement Project list. Chairman Marks explained that the Parks & Recreation commissioners and staff (and concerned public participants) prioritize needed projects, but then it is up to the Board of Selectmen to see what makes it through to the next phase. The order of review is as follows: Board of Selectmen, then to the Board of Finance, and finally, the Legislative Council. This year, Parks & Recreation's interests did not make it past the Board of Selectmen review so Chairman Marks explained that in August Parks & Recreation can start the whole process all over again. Ms. Larson thanked Mr. Marks for the clarification, as she is interested in pursuing future sustainability projects. Director Amy Mangold thanked Ms. Larson for all of her hard work on the Fruit Trail and Victory Garden, among other contributions.

Selectman Maureen Crick Owen told the committee that she is spearheading a town initiative in conjunction with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Fourteen years ago, her

19 year old nephew died by suicide, and she explained that she is committed to sparing other families this heartbreak. There will be two virtual presentations on November 5th and November 19th at 6:30 pm.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to accept the Minutes from the September 8, 2020 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Clinton DePaolo seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the accepted minutes.

Old Business:

- *None.*

New Business:

- *Commission Changes: see Chairman's report below.*

Chairman's Report:

Edward Marks, Chairman Newtown Parks and Recreation:

- There are some major commission changes on the horizon, Chairman Marks stated. Most pressing is that Commissioner Patrick Barczak is leaving as he and his wife are moving out of Newtown to the upstate New York area. Pat will be terribly missed. He has been very involved in town since he moved here in 1980, and has been on the Parks & Recreation Commission Board since 2002. Chairman Marks presented Pat with a card signed by all members plus a five year subscription to the Newtown Bee so "Pat can see how we're doing"! Everyone laughed and thanked Pat, and told him how sad they all are to see him go.
- Chairman Marks announced that his term as Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman is up in January, and he may be stepping down. Due to both of these vacancies, new officers should be elected next month.

Director's Report:

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Mangold recently met with Assistant Directors RoseAnn Reggiano and Carl Samuelson, John Moore and Kristin Rebelo to go over Summer Programming in what has worked or not worked in these past months covid-wise. There are some details that they are choosing to implement even beyond the pandemic.
- Ms. Mangold is very happy with the two fabulous fall events that RoseAnn has planned.
- All Eichler's Cove boats have been removed for the season, with the exception of one or two, but the owners were made aware of it, and are getting them out immediately. In speaking of Eichler's Cove, Ms. Mangold stressed how hard her staff has been working, as they are working without one part-time secretary, a full time secretary and one full

time administrative assistant. They cannot fill the first fulltime secretarial position (that has been out since February) until more was learned about the upcoming budget numbers.

- Regarding the Torpedoes Swim Team, it has been decided that this is not the year to make any changes regarding adding a USA Swimming component to the program. RoseAnn sent out a survey to monitor team member's needs and/or preferences. When all the data comes in, they, together with the coaches, will discuss how to proceed.
- Ms. Mangold has been taking part in Director Management meetings supported by First Selectman Dan Rosenthal and Director of Human Resources, Patrice Fahey.
- Bob Tait has been training Ms. Mangold on the new finance system which has proven helpful. The annual budget worksheets will be distributed at the end of October. The budget needs to be in by December 11, 2020.
- Planning continues with the Disc Golf Course and the Bicycle Playground.
- Gordon Williams of the Lion's Club called asking for help with tree removal at Orchard Hill. The project chairman stepped down so they could really use our support. Ms. Mangold has boosted their link on P & R's facebook page to rally support for their annual Mustang raffle.

Assistant Director's Reports:

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- Due to Covid, the annual Rooster Run had to be held virtually this year. There were 27 runners in all, and they raised \$740 for the Newtown Scholarship Association. Ms. Reggiano is really hoping to be able to return to our annual event in person next year to regain numbers lost due to the pandemic.
- Ms. Reggiano reported that she has been working with Newtown Youth Academy in running a Little Laxers Lacrosse program. They have been playing outside during October, but plan on moving indoors at NYA come November.
- First annual Scarecrow Contest is off to a great start. There are 19 scarecrows registered so far with room for plenty more. The entry fee per scarecrow is \$25. Prizes include: a free family of four Parks & Recreation pool and beach pass for Summer 2021, baskets and gift cards from B.D. Provisions, Franco's Pizza, Newtown Veterinary Services, Mt. Pleasant Animal Hospital, Pleasant Paws and Good Directions Weathervanes.
- The Spooktacular event, set for Saturday, October 24th from 11am to 1pm, is coming along very nicely. Ms. Reggiano has been working very closely with staffer, Victoria Weimann, and they have come up with some fun games and prizes for the kids. The games include Chutes & Ladders, Dracula Says, Simon and Ghost Tag with inflatable light sabers. There are already 15 volunteers from Newtown High School for the day. Both kids and parents need to register for counting/social distancing purposes. The fee is \$5 per person with a limit of 100 people.
- Torpedoes Swim Team is scheduled to take place with many Covid guidelines put into place. It should be starting in a few weeks with a limit of 72 swimmers. Ms. Reggiano has a meeting set with head swim team coach, Lisa Irving on Wednesday, October 14th so she will have more details thereafter.
- Ms. Reggiano and Director Mangold met virtually with Economic Development Committee members, Chrystal Preszler, Kim Chiappetta and Barbara Snyder to discuss collaborating on some key initiatives. Commission Chairman Marks asked if they would

consider decorative lampposts at Christmastime with lampposts being sponsored by different businesses around town, to which Ms. Reggiano said, “I am sure they would”.

- Ms. Reggiano then handed out the fall programming booklet, stating that tennis, knitting and dog classes are doing very well, but admitting that Covid is really putting a damper on some programs. Winter programming is now well underway.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks: (See attachment #1)

- Please see attachment.

Commissioners out and about: None.

Motion:

Commissioner Patrick Barczak made (his last) motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Vincent Yanni, which was then carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Multi-purpose Room located at 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT.

Submitted by,

Kate Geerer, clerk

To access a recording of this meeting, please click here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WtyVX9a7K5fW3NuyngjHjJ6eTsLK_UWT

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: October 13, 2020

RE: Monthly park update and field report

Our staff finally finished assisting Public Works with labor and equipment on roadside cleanup. We are transitioning from late sports and park activities to winterization of facilities and equipment.

Dickinson Park: Things remain in good shape here. Our staff weeded most of the beds here with some community service assistance. The basketball court was completed and is open for play. Some playground items are wearing and will need a refresh, and planning for surface replacement should be on our radar.

Newtown Middle School: The fields have been used on a regular basis. Regular grooming and lining continues.

Orchard Hill: No new news here.

Lake Lillinonah: Things are in good shape here, the dock will be removed in coming weeks. Public Works is scheduled to replace a collapsed catch basin here.

Oakview: Things are in good shape here. No new news.

Tilson Field: Field Turf has yet to complete some needed repairs due to Covid issues with repair crews. We are still on schedule but no date has been given.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: The two loose lines on this field will be repaired once Field Turf can get us scheduled. Fields are being used on a regular basis now.

Glander Fields: The fields have been used on a regular basis. Regular grooming and lining continues.

Liberty Fields: The fields have been used on a regular basis. Regular grooming and lining continues.

Walnut Tree: Field seeing regular fall use. The recent rains have helped out a great deal here.

Fairfield Hills: High Meadow has been used extensively this fall. There was some moderate vandalism to the soccer fields here over the weekend. It will be repaired this coming week but one of the small format soccer fields will be moved to NMS.



NHS Fields: Fall sports are using the fields on a regular basis here, although use is certainly lighter than a normal season.

Sandy Hook School: Fields are all set for fall use, otherwise no new news here.

Hawley School Fields: The two trees that were leaning over the fields here have been addressed. The fields here are being groomed and lined on a regular basis for fall sports use.

Eichlers Cove Marina: We had a boat sink here last month which we assisted in removing. Sandy Hook Fire and DEEP were on scene to be sure any environmental issues were mitigated. Seasonal dock removal started today, which will keep the guys busy for a few days.



Dog Park: No new news here.

Treadwell Park: The pool season has ended. The depth markers have been completed and the cover anchors will be going in as the cover is installed. We will run the pool under the cover until around Thanksgiving.

Pole Bridge Preserve: No new news here.

Watertown Field: The irrigation was completed, sod has been installed and seeding has all been completed. We are hoping for a few mild weeks to get some decent germination prior to winter.



Staff:

- 200 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1672 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 12% loss in workforce.