

# Colchester and Parks Recreation

MEETING MINUTES  
Colchester Parks & Recreation Commission  
September 8, 2014, 7:00p.m.  
Town Hall – Room 2

NANCY A. BRAY  
TOWN CLERK

*Nancy A. Bray*

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COLCHESTER, CT

**Members Present:** C. Ferrante, E. Kundahl, N. Kaplan, L. Dimock, T. Loskant, D. O'Brien, Stephenson and K. Moody  
**Others Present:** C. Hancin, Jim Paggioli, Denise Mizla, Michael Voiland, Paula McDowell, Anita Pizzutiello, C. Duigou and Arthur Liverant

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman C. Ferrante called the September 8, 2014 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Citizen's Comments**

None

3. **Acceptance of Minutes: August 11, 2014**

E. Kundahl **MOTIONED** to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2014 meeting. **SECONDED** by T. Loskant. L. Stephenson and K. Moody abstained. All other members present voted in favor, **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **Reading of Correspondence**

None

5. **Committee Reports**

- **Facilities** – E. Kundahl stated walk around of the fields were completed with Jason Henderson who also took soil samples. J. Henderson was concerned with the condition of fields. J. Paggioli stated unfortunately during the summer months the drought is difficult on the fields due to lack of irrigation on many of the fields, some funding is available for over seeding, irrigation and maintenance of R2 is scheduled for next week. J. Henderson suggested a master plan be developed for fields. C. Ferrante suggested the facilities sub-committee take a look at coordination to develop a master plan that may include raising funds for maintenance of fields.
- **Finance/Administration** – none
- **Programs** – none
- **BOS Liaison** – Selectman D. Mizla stated a town meeting to vote for the tax abatement program for the potential sports arena is scheduled for September 30, 2014 at 7:00pm at town hall. Discussion was had regarding the possibility of a sports arena in town. The committee stated this will not be a substitution for fields.
- **BOF Liaison** – none
- **BOE Liaison** – none

**6. Discussion and Possible Action on non-resident use in the Spray Park**

C. Hancin stated concerns regarding non-residents use of the spray park have come up again due to the overwhelming amount of people on certain days. Also, complaints regarding the early closing of the spray park from past practice due to repairs that are needed. C. Hancin stated she has been asked to report any effects from budget cuts that impair any services that are offered. The maintenance repair budget does not include enough for repairs and improvements to the Spray Park which is in dire need. Hiring a park ranger could address many concerns that arise when the spray park is in session and other vandalism concerns at the park. The ranger position was cut from the budget. Discussion was had. C. Ferrante asked the facilities sub-committee schedule a meeting to come up with options and forward to C. Hancin and J. Paggioli for their review prior to presenting at the next Park and Recreation commission meeting in October.

**7. Discussion and Possible Action on 57 Fest**

C. Hancin stated the 57 Fest scheduled for September 27, 2014 is still short \$8,000 in funds. Discussion was had to charge an entrance fee, create a paid bracelet for youth activities or cut activities. The consensus of the board members was, unfortunately, having to cut activities for this year since the event is only 2 ½ weeks away and come up with different options for next year. C. Hancin stated she will bring this suggestion back to the 57 Fest Committee.

**8. Recreation Supervisor's Report (Monthly)**

A. Pizzutiello and C. Duigou stated Summer Camp was a huge success highlighting many new additions that included Ace camper program, DEEP free fishing class at Lion's pond and African drummers/dancers. A. Pizzutiello also stated proper planning for weather resulted in no additional expense for rainy day or extreme heat transportation to JJIS; lunches provided by John Sawchuck, The Dug Out Concession stand at the RecPlex, were consistently accurate, on time, and at the proper temperature; the number of staff was sufficient, but more subs are needed in the future as many staff became sick on the same weeks, more special needs issues arose, a designated special needs staff is needed to handle the increased demand; three more hours of staff training needs to be added; the Spray Park congestion occurred at camp and more picnic tables throughout the spray park are needed. L. Anderson **MOTIONED** to accept the Recreation Supervisor's Report. **SECONDED** by E. Kundahl. All members present voted in favor, **MOTION CARRIED**.

**9. Recreation Manager's Report**

C. Hancin read the Recreation Manager's report that stated the Fall Connections went out to the public on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and registration is going well for fall, the next sports council meeting to schedule winter sports is September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm in room 1 at Town Hall, the Colchester Civic Orchestra winter show is set for December 6<sup>th</sup> at Holiday Homecoming at 6:30pm at the Federated Church and Ben Steinmeyer, a local boy scout completed stairs from the outside side gate of the dog park to the Airline trail below. E. Kundahl **MOTIONED** to accept the Recreation Manager's Report. **SECONDED** by N. Kaplan. All members present voted in favor, **MOTION CARRIED**.

**10. General Comments**

A. Liverant asked to speak since missing Citizens Comments at the beginning of the meeting. A. Liverant expressed his concern over the fee that is charged for use of the Town Green.

**11. Adjournment**

E. Kundahl **MOTIONED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. **SECONDED** by D. O'Brien. All members present voted in favor, **MOTION CARRIED**.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gina Santos, Clerk