

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE NEWTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL SOUTH
APRIL 10, 2012**

These minutes are subject to approval by the Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Marks called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Commission Members present: Marks, Brookes, Crick Owen, DiNicola, Barczak and Boritz

Commission Members absent: Yanni Jr.

Staff present: Mangold, Reggiano and Samuelson

Staff absent: None

Public: Kendra Bobowick from the Newtown Bee

Chairman Marks welcomed new Commissioner, Richard Boritz. All members were introduced and their background given. Staff members present were also introduced.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

(m/s/c: Crick Owen/Brookes) “Motion to accept the minutes from the March 13, 2012 meeting as amended.” At the end of each motion add– “The Motion was carried unanimously.” Under Director’s Report, 1st bullet – Commissioner Brookes would be responsible for updating the survey to go out to all slip holders at the end of the year. Old Business, item 1, 1st bullet item (Field Rental Policy Discussion) – Director Mangold reported that she and Assistant Directors Samuelson and Reggiano are opposed to renting out our fields. The motion was carried unanimously with Commissioner Barczak abstaining. New business, item 1, 1st bullet – Newtown Youth Football and Cheer - Sean Dunn was requesting guidance on how to proceed from Parks and Recreation with a permanent lighting solution at Taylor Field (Hawley School). The motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- None

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

- The Parks and Recreation budget has moved through the process, to a Town Referendum, as presented.
- The Parks and Recreation section of the Plan of Conservation and Development has been approved. Chairman Marks asked Director Mangold to send Commissioner Boritz a copy of the Plan.
- Chairman Marks asked that Director Mangold set up two dates in the beginning of July for a facilities tour. She will bring the dates with her to the next meeting.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Director Mangold and Commission Brookes attended a meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission on April 5th, at that meeting the Plan of Conservation and Development for Parks and Recreation was approved. The Commission commented about how well done the Plan was and that they would like to show it to other departments as a sample. Director Mangold thanked Commissioner Brookes for her work on the Plan as well as Chairman Marks. Commissioner Brookes would like to have one member of the Commission in attendance at every meeting that the Chairman or the Director attends. The Commissioners were all in agreement.
- Director Mangold, Assistant Directors Samuelson and Reggiano, and Operations Supervisor, John Moore all met to review the plans to complete the Dog Park. They now have a complete list and budget of what it would take to completely build the Dog Park.
- April 1st was the date given to start planting the Victory Garden at its present location. Another meeting will be scheduled to discuss the final spot for the garden. Parks and Recreation is looking to have the irrigation donated. A \$1,000.00 grant was awarded from New England Grassroots Environmental Funds.
- Eichler’s Cove – 10 slips are still available for rent. The Park Wardens will start May 12th. Assistant Director Reggiano held a meeting today with Assistant Director Samuelson, Director Mangold, John Moore and the

Wardens to go over their job duties. There will also be security guards at the Cove this year again. The infrastructure is being worked on for the security cameras.

- The work on the Treadwell Pool house had to be rebid. There were no bids received the first time. The second bid yielded two bids. Director Mangold and Assistant Director Samuelson will hold a scope review meeting with one of the companies that bid on April 18th. The work for this project would begin in the fall.
- Mad Dash – Parks and Recreation is co-sponsoring this obstacle race with the Newtown Youth Academy on June 9th at Fairfield Hills. Cody Foss will meet with the First Selectman to gain more support from the Town for this event.
- Earth Day – April 28th at Newtown Middle School. Parks and Recreation will have a tent at the event. Assistant Director Reggiano will help with the school usage next year.
- The Transition Initiative Committee will be hosting a movie on April 29th at the Municipal Center. The movie is called Nation Carbon.
- Nature Hike at Orchard Hill will be May 6th.
- Sample Camp will be held June 10th.
- Rooster Run will be held June 16th.
- Director Mangold is planning a skateboard competition this summer along with the 2nd Harvest Festival and hopefully a grand opening for the new Dog Park.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS – PARKS AND FIELD REPORT

- See report.
- Sean Dunn (Newtown Football and Cheer) presented a lighting plan for Taylor Field, to Parks and Recreation and to Gino Faiella, Director of Facilities for the Board of Education. Mr. Faiella requested more information about the installation from Mr. Dunn. Assistant Director Samuelson had a follow up meeting with Mr. Faiella. Mr. Faiella informed him that with the new HVAC at Hawley School is at full capacity for its electrical load. He recommended that Football put in their own electrical service. The total cost for this project could be close to \$100,000.00. There are very specific requirements to lighting a field that is up to code. This field is a Board of Education field. Additionally the Board of Education is currently paying for the lights that Newtown Youth Football has at Taylor Field. Mr. Faiella said this will have to stop immediately and Newtown Youth Football will need to pay for their lighting costs from now moving forward. Mr. Faiella will contact Mr. Dunn.
- Assistant Director Samuelson submitted a rough draft of the fencing modification for the Dog Park to the Conservation Commission. A formal letter will follow.
- Next week the bid will go out for the Stream Project at Dickinson Park.
- All of the Park Rangers from last year will be returning this year. There are no positions open.
- The first Fiber Over Ethernet in the state was installed at Eichler's Cove. This is brand new technology. Scott Sharlow from the Technology Department has been working on hooking up this facility with the rest of the town facilities.
- Assistant Director Samuelson attended the annual Babe Ruth coaches meeting. Discussions at the meeting were very positive.
- All fields will be opened this weekend. (With the exception of Oakview field which is being renovated.) The screener will be delivered Wednesday, April 11th.
- The planting of the Elm trees that were part of the Lions Club project has been going very well; over half of them have been installed.
- Storm related fencing repairs are under way.
- The electric work at the Fairfield Hills Maintenance Garage is ongoing.
- Lighting will be needed for the band shell once it is completed. Assistant Director Samuelson will come back to the Commission with lighting information and to request money from the surcharge account to pay for it.
- We have received a cease and desist letter from the Fire Marshal for the Fairfield Hills Maintenance Facility for running a noncompliant fork lift inside the building. Assistant Director Samuelson and Gino Faiella have been discussing a possible solution, a new or used compliant fork lift with a possible trade- in of the present fork lift.
- Employees are still reporting to the Treadwell Maintenance Facility because there are not yet phones lines in the building at Fairfield Hills.
- Babe Ruth Baseball has approved up to \$30,000.00 for irrigation at Glander Fields. This installation will accommodate all future needs.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT

- Sample Camp will be held June 10. All independent contractors and camp site directors have been invited. The fee for the contractors is \$40.00. This money will go to the Scholarship fund. So far three gift certificates, to be raffled off, have been received.
- Nature Walk – the Garden Club will be giving guided tours this year.
- Egg Hunt – lower than normal turn out this year for the 8 and under age group (75 children). There were about 40 – 45 children that attended the Flashlight Egg Hunt.
- Assistant Director Reggiano has requested that the Chamber of Commerce put our events in their newsletter. They agreed to this request.

- All Counselors in Training letter have been sent out. Each CIT was requested to email their acceptance to Assistant Director Reggiano. She will then in turn email the Counselor manual to them. This has worked out very well.
- There are 87 residents that signed up for our text cancelation notices so far. This text message is sent out when the cancelation notice email is sent to everyone that has signed up to receive them. Assistant Director Samuelson requested the information so that he would send it out to all the sports groups to forward to their families.
- QR Code – Assistant Director Reggiano is working with the man she uses for our signs to create a sticker for our Parks and Recreation vehicles.
- Assistant Director Reggiano told the Commission that Gino Faiella has been wonderful to work with on scheduling the schools for summer camps and activities.
- Camp Counselor interviews started this afternoon.
- Assistant Director Reggiano reported that there has been interest in renting out the band shell that will be constructed at Treadwell Park. Chairman Marks asked that she and Director Mangold bring to the Commission their suggestions. They also discussed the possibility of renting out the small pavilion at Fairfield Hills.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DOG PARK

- Strutt Your Mutt is being held May 19th at Fairfield Hills. The Animal Concerns Group at the High School has been working closely with her on this project. They are working to see if they can have a dog adoption that day also.

2. APPROVAL OF TOURNAMENT REQUESTS

- Assistant Director Samuelson has three separate tournament requests (the first is May 26 – 28, June 15 – 24 the Jimmy Fund Tournament and July 13 – July 22 the U 14 State Championship) from Newtown Babe Ruth Baseball. Parks and Recreation will groom the fields once in the morning along with cleaning the bathrooms and trash removal.

(m/s/c: Brookes/Barczak) “Motion to approve the requested tournaments for Newtown Babe Ruth Baseball to be held May 26 – 28, June 15 – 24, and July 13 – July 22.”
The motion was carried unanimously.

3. OTHER

NEW BUSINESS

1. OTHER

None.

(m/s/c: DiNicola/Barczak) “Motion to adjourn.” The meeting ended at 7:36pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,
 Donna Benson
 Clerk