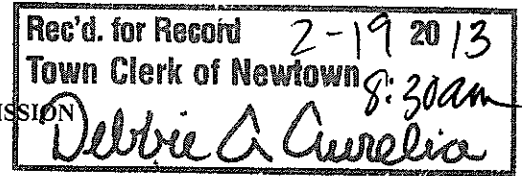


MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE NEWTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
TOWN HALL SOUTH  
FEBRUARY 12, 2013



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 6:08 pm.

Commission Members present: Marks, Boritz, Barczak, Gianni Jr., Crick Owen, and Brookes

Commission Members absent: DiNicola

Staff present: Mangold and Samuelson

Staff absent: Reggiano

Public: John Klayes, Wally Haddick, Shari Butler, Barbara Toomey, Bill Toomey, Paula Burton, Mark Lurie, Andrea Brosnan, Dee Davis, Scott Coleman, and Kendra Bobowick from the Newtown Bee

### ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

(m/s/c) "Motion to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2012 meeting." 3 approved and 3 abstained - the motion was carried.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- John Kleyes from the Fairfield County Captains, LLC (baseball) along with Bill and Barbara Toomey started the process of requesting field time for one of the baseball teams in their organization. Mr. Kleyes started this organization 2 years ago to play more competitive games. The one team they are requesting field time for will be coached by Richard Dieckman. The team consists of all Newtown/Sandy Hook players with the exception of one out of town player. They are requesting one field for this Newtown team. This team will be dedicating this coming season to the Sandy Hook Elementary School; they will all be wearing a patch on their uniforms. This organization has one U11, two U13, and two U14 teams. The request is for 1 U13 team. Chairman Marks suggested that they review the very specific guidelines they were given. Mr. Kleyes explained that the team is now in training and has been since January 15th. They are part of the East Shore Baseball Travel League and they are trying not to have to travel to East Haven every weekend. Their season will run from April thru July 20<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Marks has asked Mr. Kleyes and Mr. Dieckman to follow up with Director Mangold.
- Shari Butler is a Babe Ruth Baseball coach for Newtown. Ms. Butler coached two of the boys that were killed on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. There were three boys that were lost that day that played baseball – Jack Pinto, Chase Kowalski, and James Mattioli. Ms. Butler coached Jack and Chase but also know James. She is requesting along with Wally Haddick that the three Watertown fields be named for each one of these boys. She explained that each boy loved baseball and that naming of the fields would be a fitting tribute to the boys. They would also like to retire the boy's numbers. Ms. Butler and Mr. Haddick state that they have had some contact with a couple of the families regarding this issue. Both Ms. Butler and Mr. Haddick feel that naming the fields after the boys would bring comfort to others and to the other teams. They have also brought their request to the Babe Ruth Baseball Board. Mr. Haddick is willing to speak to each family for the Committee if necessary. Chairman Marks explained that he spoke with Adam Taylor, President of Babe Ruth Baseball and they want to move forward with what the Town is doing. He also explained that there is a Committee that is now in place that is coordinating all requests and that they will be funneled thru a central channel and that this request is part of that process. Mr. Haddick will support a petition if it is necessary as well as a fundraiser (to show determination of the group) with the funds going to the Parks and Recreation Department. Chairman Marks was not comfortable with the idea of a fundraiser for Parks and Recreation. Parks and Recreation is part of the process and we have other requests to donate in the honor of the victims. This will be a slow moving process and that they should not get their hopes up that this will happen before the start of the spring season. Ms. Burton mentioned that Stratford has already named a school after Victoria Soto and that only took a couple of weeks. Commissioner Brookes explained that Stratford had one victim and Newtown has 26 victims to honor. The Commission wants to take their time and get it right, they owe it to the residents of Sandy Hook/Newtown and to those who are donating. We have to let the process work its way thru. They will speak with all who are involved, teachers, students, families and the Town. Chairman Marks thanked both Ms. Butler and Mr. Haddick for their remarks and suggest that they go back to Babe Ruth Baseball with those remarks and that they could further reflect on the request. Chairman Marks would like to see more support from Babe Ruth Baseball. He felt it would be worth going back to Babe Ruth but is not sure what direction they want to move in. Commissioner Boritz (Chairman of the Ad Hoc Memorial Gift Fund Committee) explained the Committee's charge for responding to the donations and requests for services. This is a new committee that

has spent the last three weeks figuring out what the other Town agencies were doing. They have just started to call people to figure out the details of the donation they are offering. Director Mangold told the Commission that this will not be the only request for naming a field that might come before the Commission. Chairman Boritz went on to say that we are right in the middle of putting into place a Naming Policy/Application. In the past the Commission has approved dedications of trees, a trail or an area for someone who has long ties with the Town. Olivia Engle will be memorialized at the dog park with a piece of apparatus. The park will not be named after her. The Commission is not comfortable going to the First Selectman until it is consistent with what the Town is doing. Director Mangold stated that retiring the boy's numbers is fine and it would not have a huge impact on the town. Chairman Marks told Mr. Haddick that he could forward his emails to both Director Mangold and himself and that they would try and follow up before the next Commission meeting. The Commission will further this request. Commissioner Boritz also mentioned to them that the Ad Hoc Committee is purely an advisory Committee to the Commission. Mr. Haddick mentioned that the First Selectman is somewhat aware of this request.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Director Mangold received an email from Chris Lyddy asking to purchase two of the portable basketball hoops that were originally purchased for use at the Newtown Youth Academy. Mr. Lyddy explained that The CT Sports Center in New Milford, CT is interested in purchasing them. The Commission agreed to the sale and the money will be put back into the surcharge account, as they were purchased with surcharge money originally.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- See CIP Report.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Director Mangold presented the Commission with a donation for the Town of a tree, a wrap around bench with a plaque and a quote. This donation is already in the process. Stephanie Grillo is seeking approval of the quote that she wants to have on the plaque, the plaque will also say "In Memory 12/14/12". The commission agreed to the quote.

## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS – PARKS AND FIELD REPORT**

- See attached report.
- Tory Laros, President of Newtown Soccer Club spoke with Assistant Director Samuelson about her concerns with the Annual Memorial Day Soccer Tournament that is held in town. She is concerned that there will be 200 – 300 teams that want to participate this year. Assistant Director Samuelson will put together a plan for what fields will be available and maybe they could reach out to neighboring towns for help. He also suggested to Ms. Laros that they stop taking registrations for the Tournament April 1<sup>st</sup> instead of May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Wicked fast pitch softball team is requesting a Tournament/Fundraiser. It will be a large college showcase and the funds will go to "We are Newtown" which is a group that is raising money for a scholarship to send one student a year to college to be a teacher. The date is July 12th -14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and would utilize Dickinson, Liberty and Treadwell/lights fields. Assistant Director Samuelson told the Commission that the department could handle the Tournament. Chairman Marks would like the Wicked to accommodate a Newtown Babe Ruth Softball Travel team for free.

## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – RECREATION REPORT**

- See attached report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. DOG PARK UPDATE**

- See Assistant Director of Recreation's report.

### **2. TRAIL COMMITTEED UPDATE**

- Scott Coleman, Mark Lurie as well as other members of the Trails Committee were present to speak to the Concept Plan for the Fairfield Hills trail that is planned for the Fairfield Hills campus. Chairman Marks explained to Commissioner Boritz that the Trails Committee has been in existence for over two years and that they have been managing the trails formation process. The Committee would like to move this concept plan for a trail along using the existing trail already in place at the campus. The Committee explained that they are not exactly sure of the spot the new ambulance garage will be in so the trail will be adjusted to go behind the

building. Paula Burton walked and flagged the entire trail in December. Mr. Lurie reviewed the layout of the trail in a handout for each Commission member. He has mapped out the trail with GPS. The trail is three miles long, would be built in three phases and would tie into other existing trails. The few issues that they have come across are a couple of wet areas (trails are an approved use of wetlands), the ambulance construction and agricultural practice on the campus. Phase 1 would be a gravel path (7000' long x 4' wide) which as quoted by O & G would use 20,000 tons of gravel at a cost of \$35,000.00. Phase 2 would be dirt which would be parallel to the paved area behind the Newtown Youth Academy (easiest to complete) and Phase three would be mowed along the edge of the fields that are on the property (easiest to complete). The Committee is going to apply for a grant to help with the funding. They have been getting a lot of calls from people who want to volunteer to build the trail. The quote from Stantec to complete the trail in its entirety is \$800,000.00. The money for the complete trail is in the Fairfield Hills Authorities CIP for \$300,000.00 in 2014 and \$500,000.00 in 2016. The Committee would like to start on the unpaved part of the trail because snow on the paved part melts to quickly to snow shoe and horses and bikes could use the unpaved portion of the trail. Assistant Director Samuelson asked the Committee to double check with the Fairfield Hills Authority (Dr. John Reed) about what the decision was on whether horses would be allowed in the core section of the campus. Mr. Coleman will try and get in touch with him. Chairman Marks would like to know what is included in the Stantec Proposal to see if it includes a 4 foot shoulder to the trails. Assistant Director Samuelson will see if he has the old construction maps that would show more details. Chairman Marks told the Committee that the Commission is very much in support of them starting this project. There is also wide support from the Fairfield Hills Authority to complete projects on the campus. Mr. Lurie invited the Commission members to walk the trail with them on a Saturday. Mr. Lurie also told the Commission he is pursuing other areas for possible grant money. The Commission agreed that Phase 2 would be worked on first and that Phase 1 would at least be mowed. The Committee told the Commission that the horse owners are responsible for picking up after their horses. It just takes a little time because they have to go back to their trailers and that if there was damage done by a horse that Newtown Bridle Lands Association will repair the damage. The group agreed on the following: the trail would be marked, the trail would be walked, and Phase 2 & 3 will be mowed, check with Stantec, investigate grants and develop Phase 1. The Committee has contractors that are willing to volunteer their time and equipment to work on the trail. Assistant Director Samuelson told the Committee that certain insurance requirements need to be met before they would be allowed to work on Town property. They should speak with Karen Szilagyi in the Finance Department to get the details on the coverage that would be needed.

**(m/s/c: Crick Owen/Barczak) "Motion to approve the request to move forward with the Fairfield Hills Trail Phase 2 and 3 as in report presented and Phase 1 to solicit funds." The motion passed unanimously.**

Assistant Director Samuelson repeated the need for the Committee to speak with Dr. Reed because the approval of the type of use of the trail was very specific. Funding for Phase 1, if passed, would be available in the current 2014 CIP.

### **3. ACTION ON SKATE PARK NAMING**

**(m/s/c: Boritz/Brookes) "Motion to name the Skate Park after Christopher Mulligan." The motion failed unanimously.**

### **4. 2013/14 BUDGET UPDATE**

- Chairman Marks and Director Mangold went before the Board of Selectman to explain and answer questions about the lifeguard and day camp counselor accounts. The budget now moves on as presented to the Board of Finance.

### **5. CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) UPDATE**

- The CIP was approved by the Board of Finance. Individual project still need to be approved.

### **6. DISCUSS FACILITY USE AGREEMENT**

Tabled

### **7. SURCHARGE DISCUSSION**

Tabled

**8. OTHER**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. REPORT BY THE COMMISSION AD HOC MEMORIAL GIFT COMMITTEE**

a. Discussion and approve the proposed Memorial Donation Application Form

- Tabled – Policy and Application will be reviewed at the next Commission meeting.

**2. REVIEW OF NAMING FACILITY POLICY**

- Director Mangold presented the Commission a draft of a Facility Naming Policy for the m to review. The Commission discussed the draft at length and made changes to the document.

**(m/s/c Boritz/Brookes) “Motion to accept the Facility Naming Policy as amended, effective February 12, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.**

**(m/s/c: Yanni, Jr./Barczak) “Motion to adjourn.”**  
The meeting ended at 9:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Donna Benson  
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:** February 12, 2013

**RE:** Monthly park update and field report

Winter conditions have dictated our activities this past week. Seasonal tasks such as pruning, trail clearing and winter equipment servicing has kept us busy. The following is a highlight of items completed this past month, aside from our normal day to day tasks.

- Conduit installation from Philo Curtis to maintenance shop.
- Breakdown of all Christmas seasonal items.
- Door repair on Dickinson maintenance building.
- Second snow mold fungicide protection has been applied at NHS, High Meadow Field and Liberty Fields.
- Tree pruning at Treadwell Park
- Bridge install on Point of Rocks Rd complete.

Items we have started/continued work on:

- Pruning of walking trails.
- Cemetery tree and brush pruning.
- Phase 2 of conduit install at Treadwell from maintenance garage to pool house.
- Pool House renovation demolition.
- Final wiring to energize sub panels at FFH Shop.
- Dickinson Park stream day lighting progressing well.
- Snow removal at FFH campus and parks
- Teen center interior painting and ceiling tile replacement
- Fill low spots from settling at Oakview field
- Continue on PeeWee 1 retaining wall when weather allows.
- Truck refurb on 92 NT – rebuilt bed, blast and paint frame, new rear lighting, lift gate repair.

On the horizon:

- Sign installation for “High Meadow” field
- Sign installation at Dickinson Park and maintenance garage.
- Replace road fencing at Liberty with concrete fence.

Staff:

- 352 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury hours were used out of 2200 potential work hours in November. This represents a 16% loss in workforce or 1.5 employees per day.

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NEWTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION

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**TO:** AMY MANGOLD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
**FROM:** ROSEANN REGGIANO  
**SUBJECT:** FEBRUARY REPORT  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 12, 2013

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Pam Patterson ran a jump rope event on January 12<sup>th</sup>. She was so impressed with the turnout. The total number was 105 jumpers. The age range was from 3 to 12 years old.

The Ice Skating event that was scheduled for Feb 1<sup>st</sup> had to be canceled. I am hoping that if the rink freezes before spring, I will try to offer it again.

Amy and I have compiled a list for Chris Kelsey on what we can use for Parks and Recreation, from stuffed animals to garden supplies.

I have spoken with pay pal and they have waived all of our fees.

I have been working on planning the events from the people that called to offer their services.

I am working with Wood Acre Farms from Terryville on having them come on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> and provide a horse dawn hayride. This was arranged by Keith Bellizzi along with his daughter who was looking to do something for Newtown. I may be bringing in Nancy Temple for some ice skating lessons.

Mad Science, one of our independent contractors and our special event at Breakfast with Santa, has offered to do a Mad Science Event for us. It will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> and the theme is Up, Up and Away and more.

Tom Czaplinski another one of our independent contractors has planned a volleyball program on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Andre Hairston is offering cardio craze for the community on March 26<sup>th</sup>. This will be 60 minutes of pure fun. He is also contacting the Newtown High School cheerleaders and dance team.

Sports Center of Shelton, one of our places we visit with camp, has planned a fun time called Newtown Night on April 7<sup>th</sup>. We sent the notice out and he was limited to 1000 people and it filled up in 1 day. They have 1300 people registered and has started a waitlist. Wow!

Animal Kingdom in Brewster, NY has invited us to visit them. This event is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> for Dickinson and Treadwell Day Camp.

We are currently working on the Spring and Summer brochure, it should be out on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## DOG PARK

- All Thank You have been mailed out to everyone that has donated.
- Planning our next Strutt Your Mutt event for May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Working on dedication page to Oliva Engel our website, may be going live on Feb 14<sup>th</sup>.