

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE NEWTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL SOUTH
JUNE 11, 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 6:04 pm.

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

Commission Members absent: None

Staff present: Mangold, Samuelson and Reggiano

Staff absent: None

Public: Jamie Duncan

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

(m/s/c: Boritz/Brookes) "Motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2013 meeting as amended. Under New Business -No. 1- Other - should read 'Commissioner Brookes asked the Commission if she could share with Diana Johnson, formerly of the Conservation Commission, the plans for Dickinson Park Playground.'" The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Jamie Duncan, 44 Osborne Hill Road, Sandy Hook. Ms. Duncan explained to the Commission that she is in the process of getting her Girl Scout Gold Award. Ms. Duncan has volunteered many times for Parks and Recreation events. She is requesting from the Commission permission to paint a mural on the inside of the bowl at the Skate Park. The Skate Park is a very special place to her and her friends. She wants to blend the mural into the natural feel of the park. She does not want to obstruct nature. She does not want to encourage "tagging" at the park or future graffiti. There is an unwritten rule that artists do not paint over other artist's artwork. Ms. Duncan also told the Commission that an anti-graffiti coating could be applied to the mural. The Commission asked that Ms. Duncan contact American Ramp Company to ask if anything would have to be done to the surface of the bowl in order to paint on it, would it void the warranty, and how will the paint affect the skaters as far as the surface is concerned? Chairman Marks asked her to speak with the other skaters to get an idea of what they would like in the mural. He would like the skaters to feel ownership of the Park. The Commission agreed that the bowl would be a good place for a mural. The Commission would like to see drawings proposed if possible before the next Commission meeting so that The Commission could take action at the July meeting.

(m/s/c Brookes/Barczak) "Motion for a conditional approval for Jamie Duncan to gather information from American Ramp Company for a Girl Scout Gold Award project of a mural painted inside the bowl at the Skate Park and to bring back the information to the Commission at the July meeting for final approval. Approval based on information gathered." The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- See Director's Report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Chairman Marks reported that Mark Segrist, who is raising money for 26 benches, would like to wrap up the project – he has reached his goal. Chairman Marks has sent a letter letting Mr. Segrist know how grateful we are for the donation. Chairman Marks will send Mr. Segrist photos once the benches have been installed.
- Chairman Marks, Director Mangold and Assistant Director Samuelson are still working with Stantec on the Parks and Recreation piece of the Master Plan. There are three basic designs as of now. They include 3 baseball and 3 softball fields with interior parking, multipurpose turf field which would also be used for Community events, and the trail. The plan also includes a spot for a Community Center next to Newtown Youth Academy (this would involve moving a sewer line). Pickle Ball would only take a small space and could be incorporated and nestled anywhere. A bocce court could be incorporated into the Community Center plans. There will be more information to come before the next Commission meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Mangold, Assistant Director's Samuelson and Reggiano will be having a meeting with several member of the Board of Education to discuss budget issues. They will discuss what Parks and Recreation pays for in dealing with the fields and what the Board of Education spends on Parks and Recreation's events/overtime. Director Mangold received a letter from Ron Bienkowski reminding her of the budget amount and how much they have spent to date.
- Dickinson Playground update – The project went out to bid in April. The bid opening was May 15th. The bid was for the entire project prior to the Sandy Hook tragedy. There originally were items that were valued engineered out. The bid contained the entire project as designed originally and produced a bid of \$866,112.00. Director Mangold, Assistant Director Samuelson, Finance Director, Bob Tait and First Selectman Llodra have all had a project scope meeting. Director Mangold, Assistant Director and architect, Billie Cohen have a review scope meeting coming up. We have \$281,450.00 in donations and \$438,000.00 in the Capital Improvement Plan. Director Mangold and Assistant Director Samuelson will meet with the contractor to see where adjustments could be made. It is a complicated bid since it included items that will be donated. The project would start after camp is over in August and may be completed by late fall. The users would be given notice that the playground will be coming down. Signage would be needed for the project like the sign at Oakview Field. Director Mangold reported that each Department Head will have to represent their request in the CIP. Large donors to the playground do not want their donation money to replace CIP money, features were added back in because of the donors. The CIP request will be for \$438,000.00 with the total cost being \$866,112.00.
- Director Mangold had to write two resolutions for the 1st Selectman because of safety and security plans that have been recommended by Fire Marshall, Bill Halstead and Sergeant Bahamonde. One resolution was for money to include an unarmed security guard at Treadwell and Dickinson Day Camps. The second resolution was for the Treadwell Pool facility. It was recommended that there be two emergency exit gate improvements. One at the far end of the pool facility and to replace the pad lock gate next to the pool house. The estimate for this was \$36,000.00 for both gates. This money would come from the Sandy Hook Special Revenue Account.
- Two "floating counselors" have been hired; they both work at schools. They are there to assist the Site Directors. The cost for this is \$8,400.00. Two Social Workers will be available to the Treadwell and Dickinson Day camps and counselors. Newtown Youth and Family Services will provide the funds for the Social Workers. (\$31,000.00). These two Social Workers are currently working in the Newtown school system.
- Lou Bergholtz has been providing advance level training to the summer staff. He will hold a meeting tomorrow night with Director Mangold, Assistant Director Reggiano and the site directors.
- Director Mangold will have a meeting with Securitas this Thursday. They supply security to Eichler's Cove Boat Marina and will also be providing the Security Guards for the two day camps.
- Director Mangold thanked Commissioner Yanni Jr. for volunteering for security at the December vigil for Sandy Hook.
- Director Mangold would like the Commissioners to report back when they are out and about at events. She would love the feedback as well as acknowledging them for their time. Chairman Marks asked that that be added to the agenda. Chairman Marks reported that he really enjoyed helping out at the Mad Dash that was held last weekend.
- Director Mangold had a request from one of the affected Sandy Hook families whose son loved participating in the swim lessons and was a frequent user of the Treadwell pool. The family would like to recognize a few swim instructors who are lifeguards with scholarship awards.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS – PARKS AND FIELD REPORT

- See attached report.
- The technology infrastructure that has been put in place is already improving our department.
- The second coat of asphalt has been applied to the Treadwell basketball court. The basketball court could be done by the beginning of July.
- Next week we will be planting a hedge barrier at Oakview Field. We have been cutting the field every three days.
- Grading at the Dog Park is coming along.
- We will be starting the sidewalk at Treadwell Park next week.
- Victory Garden mulching has been completed. And the fencing is underway.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – RECREATION REPORT

- Strutt Your Mutt – over 200 dogs attended and we had 24 vendors. \$2,973.00 was raised this year for the dog park. The entry fee was \$5.00 per dog.
- Mad Dash – 452 registered for the Mad Dash. Everyone had a great time.
- Bob Geckle has been working with a PGA Pro to bring 1st Golf to Newtown. This is a program to teach young children to play golf. We are sending 7 day camp counselors to be trained for the program. They will teach it 2 times a week at Treadwell/Dickinson Day Camps. They are buying all the equipment necessary and there will be no extra charge for the lessons at camp.

- Assistant Director Reggiano has been in touch with Sandy Hook School to see how we get information to the parents. They told her to give them the hard copy flyers and they will hand out to the students.
- There will be one day trip a week at Treadwell and Dickinson Day Camp for the 7 – 11 year olds except for when they all go to Quassy Amusement Park.
- There will be a Children’s Summer Concert Series this summer at Dickinson Park. The day camp children will be allowed to attend and Treadwell children will be buses to Dickinson Park with parent approval.
- Every year The New Haven Open at Yale hosts the First Niagara Free Tennis Lesson. They would like to bring the free tennis lesson to our day camp at Dickinson Day Camp on July 8th. Fairfield County Tennis will be sending some of their pros to help out with the lesson.
- Summer intern, Kevin Clark, is working with the Retired NBA Association to organize an event.
- Both interns, Kevin Clark and Chelsea Seres, have been wonderful additions to the staff.
- The Rooster Run is scheduled for this Saturday, June 15th.
- We have assigned all of the \$20,000.00 Nike Day Camp Scholarship. Nike is also donating sports equipment to the day camps.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DOG PARK UPDATE/RULES

- Dog Park Rules- Stamford Dog Park has never had to change their rules after they were implemented. They did suggest an age restriction for children. #1 Dog Park in Cape Cod has also never had to change their rules. They have that if your dog is aggressive the dog warden would be called and your dog may be banned from the park.
- Assistant Director Reggiano reported that the Dog Park Committee was happy with the site plan. They did not want a fence between the splash pad. The group also likes the idea of the roll away dumpster. Assistant Director Reggiano will meet with Assistant Director Samuelson to go over the details from the Dog Park meeting.

2. OUTLAW BASEBALL CLUB – NEW ORGANIZATION/FIELD USE REQUEST

- No action was taken. There was no one from the Outlaws Baseball Club present to speak to the issue so the request could not be approved because they can’t demonstrate an open tryout procedure. This item can be revisited again for the fall season.
- Assistant Director Samuelson commented that with these new small teams that significant time is being taken away from Babe Ruth Baseball that has hundreds of children playing. Chairman Marks told the Commission that if an organization meets the requirements we must find and provide field time for them.

3. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EVENT

- Joe DePaola is requesting to have a fund raising event at the Skate Park to raise funds for a fund for Newtown. The Commission agreed to charge the \$200.00 Special Event fee for the event. Mr. DePaola is estimating 500 people to go through the event during the day. The Commission wanted them to have a police officer at the event. They have to provide insurance for the event. They also want the regular requirements listed on the Event form met.

(m/s/c: Crick Owe/Yanni Jr.) “Motion to approve a Skate Park Special Event run by Joe DePaola once all conditions requested are met.” The motion passed unanimously.

(m/s/c: DiNicola/Barczak) “Motion to approve The Jimmy Fund Tournament for Babe Ruth Baseball.” The motion passed unanimously.

(m/s/c: Boritz/Barczak: “Motion to approve Newtown High School Girls Soccer Gymboree.” The motion passed unanimously.

4. EICHLER’S COVE MARINA SURVEY RESULTS

- Tabled. Commissioner Brookes would like members to think about what we can afford and a time line and how to communicate back to the slip holders. Two topics for discussion are parking and an access road.

5. NEWTOWN CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

- Tabled. No one was present.

6. TRAIL COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Trail Committee meeting is this Thursday 7:00 pm at the Municipal Center. Director Mangold cannot attend this meeting; she asked if any of the Commissioners could attend in her place that would be great. She could also send an intern if necessary. There are lots of groups proposing trail projects and it is a goal to coordinate their efforts.

7. SURCHARGE DISCUSSION

- Tabled.

8. OTHER

- Chairman Marks would like to schedule another facility tour in August or September.

NEW BUSINESS

1. WETLAND EDUCATION CENTER MEETING UPDATE

- Commissioner Brookes reported that she held a meeting on June 16 with Barbara Toomey, Kevin Dufour, Lisa Chaloux, Bob Eckenrode, Joe Hovious, Todd Bobowick, Mary Wilson-Gaudet, Betsy Paynter, Sarah Middleer, Tim Currier, Ann Astarita, Bob Burke, John Moore, Director Mangold and Billie Cohen. The Conservation Commission had some concerns about day lighting another stream that would affect Deep Brook. Commissioner Brookes is trying to get an independent group to organize the project. She did not feel it was the right time to ask for people to volunteer for positions on a Committee and no one stepped forward to volunteer. The Commission agreed that this group should be independent of Parks and Recreation. There will be a guided tour on June 27th at 5:30pm before the summer concert begins. Director Mangold will send out an eblast. Commissioner Brookes will write a press release about the tour. She also agreed to continue until someone else picks up the project – September/October. Director Mangold was very impressed with the meeting and that Commissioner Brookes, Todd Bobowick and Kevin Dufour were all very good. The group was very excited about the project. It was decided that Commissioner Brookes and Billie Cohen should not be co-chairs for this project. And the Chairman should not be from a special interest group.

2. NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FALL BASEBALL TEAM – NEW ORGANIZATION/FIELD USE REQUEST

- No one from the organization was present to discuss the request. A few of the items that need more explanation were: surcharge fee, open tryout, conflicting information on two forms (one or two teams?), double time slots are tough to schedule and there might be a concern for the Coach who would be coaching the high school team off season, (CIAC rules).

(m/s/c: Yanni Jr./Boritz) “Motion to adjourn.” The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 8:47 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: June 11, 2013

RE: Monthly park update and field report

The new staff members continue to become more productive as they learn the Town and daily processes.

We have completed many projects this spring and are planning many more moving into mid-summer.

The technology infrastructure we have invested in is already improving efficiencies in our department.

The following is a highlight of items completed this past month, aside from our normal day to day tasks.

- Mad Dash set up and break down.
- Treadwell basketball court asphalt complete.
- Treadwell hill grading and seeding complete.
- Fairfield Hills interior shop painting complete.
- Fiber optic online and in use at Treadwell, FFH, Eichlers Cove and Dickinson Park.
- Pool gutters stripped and recoated with chlorinated rubber.
- Victory Garden clearing, mulching complete. Fencing underway.
- Pool controllers online as of 6/11
- Retaining wall at Pee Wee 1 complete
- Fertilization of all athletic fields
- Memorial Day soccer tournament set up and break down
- NHS electrical infrastructure engineering for lighting complete

Items we have started/continued work on:

- Tree planting at Oakview field between neighboring property.
- Fairfield Hills Shop wood floor removal.
- Treadwell basketball court lighting infrastructure
- NHS irrigation pump station.
- Treadwell sidewalk installation
- Concrete floor at FFH shop.
- Dog park grading almost complete. Fencing to begin.
- Water line install at Oakview

Staff:

- 136 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1368 potential work hours in November. This represents a 10% loss in workforce or 1 employees per day.