

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE NEWTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
TOWN HALL SOUTH  
SEPTEMBER 10, 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, DiNicola, Yanni Jr., Crick Owen, and, Barczak

Commission Members absent: Brookes

Staff present: Mangold, Samuelson and Reggiano

Staff absent: None

Public: Ethan Carey, Taryn Donna Rummo, Charles Rosenay, Phyllis Cortese

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**m/s/c: Boritz/Barczak) "Motion to accept the minutes from the June 11, 2013 meeting." The motion passed unanimously.**

**(m/s/c Crick Owen/Yanni Jr.) "Motion to accept the minutes from the July 9, 2013 meeting." The motion passed unanimously.**

**(m/s/c: Crick Owen/Barczak) "Motion to approve the amended minutes from the August 13, 2013 minutes." Under Director's report, bullet item 4 should read "A sign would have to made to provide a summary of the work and schedule for the new playground at Dickinson Park". The motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Ethan Carey, Tayrn Donna Rummo for WRKI Radio , Charles Rosenay from Liverpool Productions and Phyllis Cortese from the Ives Concert Park addressed the Commission about a fundraiser concert the second "Danbury Fields Forever" Beatles Music Event, put on at the Ives Concert Park by Mr. Rosenay with support from WRKI Radio. The proceeds from the door are being donated to the Park Gift Fund for the new playground at Dickinson Park. The total donation was \$9,299.48. Chairman Marks was thrilled with the donation and thanked each member of the team. Director Mangold thanked Mr. Carey and Ms. Donna Rummo for the initial donation and help after the events of 12/14/12. The total in the Park Gift Fund is over \$90,000.00 that has been earmarked for the playground and a huge portion was because of their help and hard work. There will be an immediate payback for the donations; we hope to have the playground done by next spring.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Nick Lafky built nine benches for the Sandy Hook School as a scouting project with Principal Dawn Hochsprung who was killed on 12/14/12. He remove the benches from the school and is looking for a new home for them if they can't be used at the new school or by the Board of Education. Commissioners made suggestions and thought Pole Bridge Trail or Orchard Hill Nature Center would be a good place for these types of benches.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- No report.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Treadwell Pool house is complete. We hope to have the fob system in place for next year's swim season.
- First Selectman Llodra asked that when the HVAC bid is put out for the Fairfield Hills Maintenance Garage that it include the Board of Education end of the building. Assistant Director Samuelson told the Commission that that end of the building already has it and that he will speak to Mrs. Llodra.
- The Victory Garden has been moved. The Harvest Festival will take place at the garden on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. This will include the planting of 30 semi dwarf fruit trees. If in the future the garden has to be

Rec'd. for Record 9-17-2013  
Town Clerk of Newtown 12:00pm  
*Debbie Aurelia Halstead*

moved the company helping with the planting of them would help with a plan to move them. First Selectman Llodra is very supportive of the project. Boplicity will be playing at the Festival.

- Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> Tom Cappizello will be running a fundraiser for the skate park at the skate park for future enhancements.
- Public Works Director, Fred Hurley would like to speak with Assistant Director Reggiano about working together on a sign for both the Animal Shelter and the Dog Park. We also need to work on a sign for Treadwell Park showing the location of Tilson Field.
- The new sign at Dickinson Park has been installed.
- Monday, September 16, 2013 at 7:15pm is the Town meeting in the Council Chamber to vote on the Dickinson Park Playground Project.
- Saturday, October 5 is the referendum for the Sandy Hook School project.
- Director Mangold was asked for a balance of the surcharge account. She will have it for the October meeting.
- The question of how we will charge the Board of Education, if we charge the Board of Education for their use of the lights that Parks and Recreation installed on the back football field at the High School. This item will need further discussion.
- Director Mangold reported that the Selectmen are very appreciative of what has been accomplished by the department over the last nine months.

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

- See report from Assistant Director Samuelson.
- 1,200 plants and trees have been planted along the stream bank restoration at Dickinson Park.
- Pee Wee Field will open Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. First Selectman Llodra will give a proclamation that day.
- Oakview Field is done and we are just waiting for CL& P. Newtown Soccer Club will inform Parks and Recreation as to what size field(s) they will use there. Labor for the installation of the irrigation was donated. The water service at the field will be fenced in. Assistant Director Samuelson is working on a sign for the field.
- Treadwell Turf replacement is done. Phase 2 of the sidewalk project at Treadwell Park is done as well.
- High School back football field lighting is done and waiting for CL & P to tie in and energize the lights.
- 26 donated blue spruce trees will be planted at various locations.
- The Dog Park is moving along.
- The shattered basketball backboard at Treadwell Park has been replaced. The backboard was replaced under warranty. Nike donated \$12,000.00 toward lights for the new basketball court – Musco Lighting donated \$70,000.00 worth of lights for \$12,000.00. The lights were installed; new LED lights will be installed at a later date. The lights on the court are on every Friday night through the end of October until 10:00 pm.
- Assistant Director Samuelson is getting ready to start the bid process for new Tennis courts at Treadwell Park. It should be out in the next two weeks and would like to start construction this fall. We will also be installing a force protection rail around the courts like the one around the fields.
- Director Mangold will send the Commissioners the projects update for all to review.

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

- Assistant Director Reggiano reported that the Fall Preview is out and should be at the schools by the end of the week for distribution.
- Agility equipment for the Dog Park has been ordered and they are working on an entrance sign.
- The Howl-o-ween Dog event is Saturday, October 28 at Fairfield Hills Campus.
- Pumpkin Festival is Saturday, October 12 at Fairfield Hills Campus.
- Julie Lubby from Newtown Youth Football and Cheer is requesting time for the cheerleaders in the high school gym till December, which has been scheduled but she needs additional gym time and basketball is scheduled to use the school gyms. There are asking to be considered an indoor sport this time of the year since they still complete after the football season is over and need to practice. They also need the use of mats. The commission agreed to squeeze them in this year and that next year we will have to accommodate them and they will have to pay a second surcharge for a winter season. They will have to go through the process of requesting gym time like a new organization. Chairman Marks would like Assistant Director Reggiano to give basketball sufficient warning that they will lose some time to cheerleading.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

- See above.

##### **2. EICHLER'S COVE MARINA SURVEY**

- Tabled.

### **3. NEWTOWN YOUTH BASKETBALL – Spring Use Request**

- Tabled.
- Chairman Marks told Assistant Director Reggiano that NYBA only has to come to the meeting if they don't comply with all items listed in the New Organization Packet. Assistant Director Reggiano would still like them to come before the Commission. The Commission would have to receive the packet before the October meeting.

### **4. FAIRFIELD HILLS MASTER PLAN**

- Chairman Marks and Director Mangold met with George Benson, Land Use Director, earlier in the day to review the Fairfield Hills Master Plan. Mr. Benson commented that he would like to see more parking associated with Plymouth Hall and where bathrooms could be accommodated for the sports fields and trails.
- See attached Fairfield Hills Plan and narrative from Stantec.

### **5. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

- The Commission discussed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) at length and has agreed to add the following to the upcoming CIP.
  1. 2017/2018 - \$500,000.00 for a bath house and concessions at Eichler's Cove.
  2. 2018/2019 - \$500,000.00 for the Second Phase for Treadwell Parking lot.
  3. 2018/2019 - \$1,300,000.00 for Dickinson Splash Pad/Bath House/Concessions and Pavilion.
- Chairman Marks will put the complete list of projects together and share with the Commission. The Commission will prioritize them at the October meeting.

### **6. SURCHARGE DISCUSSION**

- Tabled.

### **7. SCHEDULE FACILITES TOUR**

- The facilities tour will take place before the October Commission meeting, Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm and late comers can meet up with the group at 3:00pm. The Commission would like to see Treadwell Park, the Dog Park, Dickinson Park, Eichler's Cove and the new field at Watertown.

### **8. COMMISSIONER'S OUT AND ABOUT**

- Tabled.

### **9. OTHER**

- Trails Committee – Commissioner Boritz has volunteered to work with the Trails Committee to help them through the proper procedures that need to be followed and Committees/Commissions that need to be involved in the approval process for implementing new trails. The Trails Committee was not successful in trying to implement bike routes in Town. Chief Kehoe and the Police Commission offered to help find a more suitable location for bike paths. Chairman Marks asked Commission Boritz to send a letter to the Town's Attorney asking if the Town is more liable if signs are posted for a bike path. The goal is to get consistent information from all department/committees and commissions. We also need to understand the process by which we can appeal a decision. Assistant Director Samuelson suggested that the Trails Committee might work on the deteriorating trail from Treadwell Park/Sandy Hook Fire Department, and Sandy Hook School. That this might be a good time to get involved with that project so that it will be in place once the school is rebuilt. The Commission wants the Fairfield Hills Trail to continue. They want to keep up the interest in the project especially now that the new ambulance garage is being built. Mike Floros is an avid biker and would like to get involved with establishing bike paths in Town. His information should be forwarded to Commissioner Boritz and Scott Coleman. There is a kiosk that was built at Pole Bridge Trail which the Trails Committee could post ongoing procedures and plans for others interested in the trails in Town. The Commission is very appreciative of Commission Boritz for stepping up to help with this Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

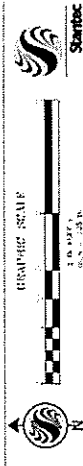
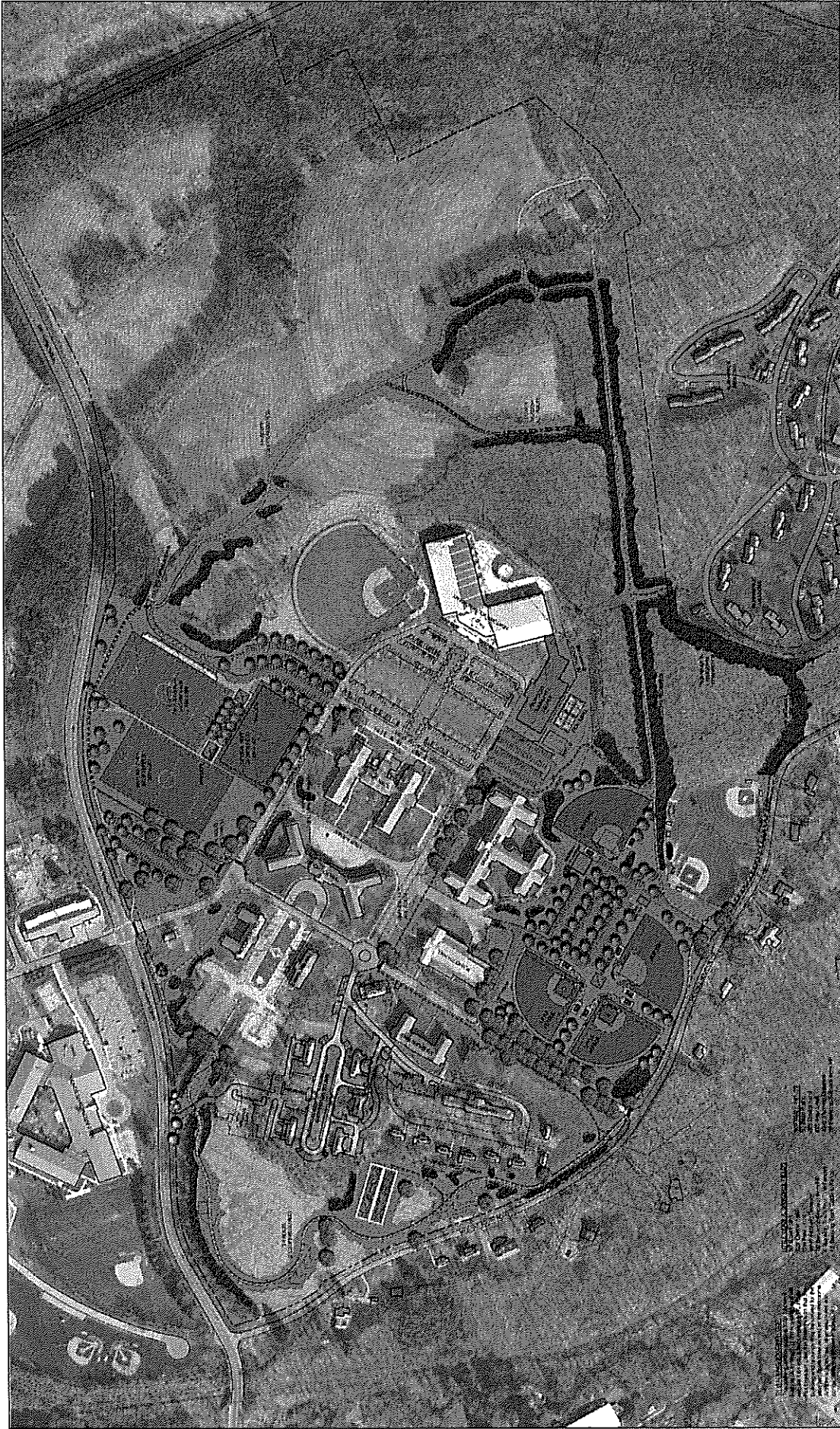
1. OTHER

➤ None.

**(m/s/c: Yanni Jr. /Barczak) "Motion to adjourn." The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting ended at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Donna Benson  
Clerk



SITE PLAN RENDERING  
AUGUST 26, 2013

FAIRFIELD HILLS - MASTER PLAN



**Fairfield Hills Master Plan - Revised  
Newtown Parks and Recreation  
August 26, 2013**

**Preferred Plan Narrative Summary**

**Study Participants:**

- Amy Mangold, Director, Newtown Parks and Recreation
- Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director - Parks, Newtown Parks and Recreation
- Edward J. Marks, Chairman, Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission
- Gary T. Sorge, Stantec
- Thomas Hammerberg, Stantec

**Area 1 (Ballfield Complex along Mile Hill South Road)**

- Provides two additional natural turf Little League baseball fields
- Provides two additional natural turf softball fields
- Grading of the baseball and softball fields works well with existing site topography
- Parking is centrally located between fields and is accessed from the interior of the campus, minimizing traffic on Mile Hill South Road
- Layout of fields in relation to the parking creates a nice node/central space behind fields. Reinforces pedestrian access between fields.
- One medium-sized pavilion is added central to three of the new fields to provide for shelter, picnicking and other events
- Maintains existing access to emergency operations building
- Maintains existing access to the Town water facility
- Cochran House must be removed
- Preserves existing mature trees at the perimeter of the fields
- Field dimensions used on the preferred plan are as follows:

**Little League Baseball Fields**

60' Base Paths  
225' Center Field  
225' Foul Lines  
46'-0" Pitching Distance  
25' Backstop Setback from HP

**Softball Fields**

60' Base Paths  
225' Center Field  
225' Foul Lines  
40'-0" Pitching Distance  
25' Backstop Setback from HP



### **Area 2 (Kent House Athletic Fields)**

- Provides one full size 225'x360' multi-use synthetic turf field with sports field lighting
- Provides bleachers with a 1000 spectator capacity at synthetic turf field
- Provides one full size 225'x360' multi-use natural turf field
- Provides 180'x330' multi-use natural turf field area which can be used as lawn for a variety of events
- Grading of the multi-use fields works well with existing site topography
- Parking lot to west provides parking for fields and a trailhead for trail access
- Parking Lot to east is expanded with proposed rain garden island between parking bays
- Two medium-sized pavilions are provided for shelter, picnicking and other events
- Kent House must be removed
- Preserves existing mature trees at the perimeter of the fields
- North faces diagonal across fields (field orientation)

### **Area 3 (Newtown Youth Academy/Canaan House)**

- Provides for new Community Center with connection to the Newtown Youth Academy
- Provides overflow parking lot to the west of the Community Center. The parking lot also provides a trailhead for trail access
- Provides four Bocce Courts and four Pickleball Courts in close proximity to the Community Center
- Provides for rerouting the sanitary sewer line past the new Community Center

### **5K Walking/Jogging Loop Trail (shown in light blue)**

The walking and/or jogging loop (shown in light blue) is 3K in length (1.9 miles long) and will require 1.64 loops to complete a 5K walk or run. Route runs past the Town Hall so that the building and grounds may be utilized for the start and finish lines for races, as well as the restrooms. The original trail route has been relocated to make room for the new Ambulance Facility and parking areas.

### **Alternate Trails and Connections (shown in dark purple/maroon)**

Additional trails, branch trails, alternate routes and connections are shown in dark purple/maroon. Connections are made to Nunnawauk Meadows, the Victory Garden, Canaan House and the Fairfield Hills central campus.



## 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:** September 10, 2013

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

As fall sets in, and sports take over our fields, we are busy with seasonal preparations and tasks at many of our facilities. Fall puts a high demand on many of our facilities while others require maintenance and closing procedures before winter sets in.

All of our summer rangers have left for the season but our new full time employee has started and is fitting in well with the scope of work the job entails.

- Stream bank restoration planting is complete.
- Pee Wee field final prep and sodding complete.
- Oakview field irrigation installation complete.
- Oakview field parking grading and parking bumpers complete.
- All fall fields laid out and painted for season.
- Treadwell Artificial field replacement complete including perimeter sod.
- Treadwell sidewalk phase 2 is complete.
- NHS field lighting project complete except for CL&P activation.
- Basketball court backboard replacement complete.
- Tilson fence/hill mowing and clearing.

Items we have started/continued work on:

- Various fencing and backstop repair work.
- Fall field aeration and over seeding
- Sidewalk backfill and finish work at Treadwell park
- Dog Park base construction underway.
- Planting of 26 donated Blue Spruce Trees
- Seasonal pool maintenance and shutdown
- Irrigation systems overview and repairs for upcoming renovation work
- Fall field aeration and overseeding.



Staff:

- 182 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1520 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 12% loss in workforce or 1.2 employees per day.