

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE NEWTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL SOUTH
MAY 13, 2014**

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Marks called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Commission Members present: Marks, Crick Owen, Brookes, Barczak

Commission Members absent: Yanni Jr. and DiNicola

Staff present: Mangold, Samuelson and Reggiano

Staff absent: None

Public: Bill Camp

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

(m/s/c: Barczak/Crick Owen) “Motion to accept the minutes as shown from the April 8, 2014 minutes.” The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- None

CORRESPONDENCE

- Director Mangold received an email from the neighbor, Tom Pierce who lives by the Glander Fields thanking the Commission for installing the privacy fencing. He is very grateful for the support and consideration.
- Assistant Director Reggiano received an email from Tim Tallcouch (high school boy’s basketball coach) thanking Parks and Recreation for letting him work with the kids in Town.
- Brad Painter thanks Director Mangold for everything for the Earth Day Celebration.
- Email from high school track coaches thanking department for keeping up with the Blue and Gold Field – Director Mangold forwarded email to Assistant Director Samuelson to share with the staff.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

- Chairman Mark’s reported that Matt Crebbin was supposed to come back to the office to look at the file of information/complaints for Newtown Track and Ms. Fish/Boyle. Chairman Marks has shared additional information with Mr. Crebbin. If they do not come in to look at the paperwork the Commission will not go any further with the request. If anyone has any questions with what has been submitted please let Chairman Marks know. The additional information from Newtown Track has been emailed to each Commission member. The Commission agreed to send recent information to the Track Board members. This would reference conversation between Gregg Simon, Athletic Director for Newtown High School and the WCC as well as information about a track meet that was scheduled at the high school without permission to use the facilities. Chairman Marks will send out that information within the next week. Mr. Camp then showed up to the meeting and asked if anything was needed from him or if the Commission had any questions. Mr. Camp then left the meeting. The Commission will discuss any new developments possibly at the June Commission meeting. The Commission may issue a no waiver decision for this season.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- One slip is left at Eichler’s Cove Marina.
- Director Mangold, Assistant Director Samuelson and Operation Supervisor Moore have been interviewing applicants for the Park Maintainer position that is open. They have decided on their final choice and Assistant Director Samuelson has spoken with the applicant. The process now moves through the Human Resource Department and First Selectman Llodra for the final approval. This Maintainer will replace Linda Bradley-Gillette who retired in April. The Commission agreed to request one additional Maintainer in the next budget.
- Director Mangold thanked the Commissioners for coming to the Dog Park opening.
- One piece of playground equipment for Dickinson Park playground is on backorder. This may cause us to wait to install the safety surface. The playground completion may still be on time (hopefully before day camp starts). The Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, July 26, at 1:00 pm. Day Camp starts June 23rd. The contractor has been great to deal with.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS – PARKS AND FIELDS REPORT

- See attached report.
- The 26 benches have arrived. The Commission agreed to ask Kyle Lyddy who is in charge of the Permanent Memorial Committee to speak to the affected families to get permission to move forward. The parents would have an opportunity to have an engraved plaque on a bench if they would like. Assistant Director Samuelson will send Chairman Marks the response from the bench supplier.
- With the late winter the department has been really pushing to get ready for the spring/summer season this past month.
- The fencing at Glander field is complete.
- The Dog Park is open.
- The Treadwell pool house has clogged multiple times already. There is a company coming with a camera to see if the pipe is crushed under the building.
- Assistant Director Samuelson toured the Fairfield Hills Campus with Christal Preszler to see what is Parks and Recreation responsibility and what is the landscape contractor's responsibility. Parks and Recreation does not have the resources to do all the work that they are requesting. We do not budget to care for all of Fairfield Hills. We care for the green and the fields. Chairman Marks asked Director Mangold to set up a meeting with First Selectman Llodra, and Fred Hurley from Public Works. Ms. Preszler wants immediate response to requests. Fairfield Hills is not a Park. We do not have the staff or the funds to maintain the whole campus. Parks and Recreation is responsible for the landscape contractor. There is only \$45,000.00 in contractual and this includes snow removal for the campus. It is the contractor's responsibility to shovel walkways during a storm. Chairman Marks suggested transferring money from the contingency fund to cover the costs and possibly incorporating costs into next year's budget.
- The Conservation Department members Ann Astrita, Steven Gogliettino and Rob Sibley met with Director Mangold and Assistant Director Samuelson about supplying information for the Conservation Commission to create a budget for Open Space.
- Assistant Director Samuelson would like to thank NUSAR for finding the anchors at Eichler's Cove Marina.
- The new maintainer has his scuba diving certification.
- Treadwell tennis courts will be going out to bid next week.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – RECREATION REPORT

- Assistant Director Reggiano thanked the Commission members for coming to the Dog Park opening. She reported that the opening was amazing.
- Strutt Your Mutt is May 31, 2014 from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
- The flashlight egg hunt had 75 participants and the under 8 year olds egg hunt had about 200 children attend. There were a lot of first time people who attended the events.
- Assistant Director Reggiano and Director Mangold both attended Destination Newtown – it was lots of fun.
- The Earth Day event went very well.
- Assistant Director Reggiano and Director Mangold will attend the camp counselor training held by Lou Berghottz of Edgewater Consulting on Wednesday, May 21st. The following week will be training for the Director's and Assistant Director's of the camps.
- Lake Lillinonah gate guards/Treadwell gate guards and lifeguards have been hired. Eichler's Cove Marina opened last Saturday, May 10th.
- Kevin Clark will be the in office/camp for summer help.
- Day camp registrations are going very well so far.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DOG PARK UPDATE

- The Dog Park opened, Saturday, May 3rd. It was very well attended. The event was a lot of fun.

2. DONATION PLAQUES

- Director Mangold has spoken to the two large donors to the Dickinson Playground. Mark Pintel – Mr. Pintel is requesting that only his name go on the plaque. Stewart Frankel of the Frankel Family Foundation reminded Director Mangold that he reference the plaque he has at the 9/11 Playground in Central Park, NY when he offered the donation. He would like the plaque to say "In honor of the children", 12/14/12, Stewart Frankel

Foundation. He feels very strongly about having the above on the plaque. Director Mangold told him she would bring his request back to the Commission. He sent a picture of the plaque at Central Park. The Commission was okay with the size. Chairman Marks suggested that the Commission send this request to the Permanent Memorial Committee for their consideration. Director Mangold is to speak to First Selectman Llodra and let her know what is going on; some survivors don't want a reference every time they go from one public facility to another. Mr. Frankel's request was a very early on request. Parks and Recreation/Town had no policy at the time. We were not prepared for the world wide response. Having the date on the plaque is the issue with the Commission. Director Mangold will reach out to Kyle Lyddy at Commissioner Marks request.

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3. COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

- The \$15,000,000.00 donation from GE has been approved by the Town Government. \$450,000.00 has been approved to move forward with an RFP.
- The planning process is moving forward.
- One of the next steps would be to turn the project over to Public Building and Site.
- First Selectman Llodra wants the process to work like the Sandy Hook School project worked.

4. COMMISSIONER'S OUT AND ABOUT BABE RUTH

- Many of the Commissioners attended the Dog Park Opening.

5. OTHER

- No report.

NEW BUSINESS

1. FIELD REQUEST – NEWTOWN YOUTH FIELD HOCKEY – Amy Williams

- Fairfield County Captains Baseball has been so far so good to work with this year. Assistant Director Samuelson is very concerned about field allocations for new groups. Once groups approved they consume time away from large groups. We are booked every minute. If they meet criteria something should be put in place to cap use. May have to factor in rest time. One possibility is that each group be allotted 25% over their allotted field time. Possibility limit to two Special Events/Tournament and maybe three extra game slots.
- The Field Hockey request does meet a specific need. It is a small group with no board members. Ms. Williams must show that there is a structured board to this organization. Assistant Director Reggiano will speak with Ms. Williams to review the regulations. The organization would have to supply goals. They might be allowed some access to the turf fields. They would also have to be part of a league, supply rosters/surcharge and they would have to pay for lights at \$75.00 per night. This program might have to come under Parks and Recreation. This issue was tabled until the June meeting.

2. OTHER

- No report.

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

The meeting ended at 7:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna Benson
Commission 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: May 13, 2014

RE: Monthly park update and field report

May has been busier than normal following an extended winter season. We have had fluctuating temperatures as well as a lot of wet weather, especially on weekends.

- 4 Staff members attended OSHA 10 hour certification training
- Repair and installation of all Eichlers Cove docks for season.
- Spring prep and painting of all athletic fields.
- Spring aeration and fertilizer applications.
- Contracted tree work at cemeteries.
- Drainage completion at Liberty Fields
- Pruning and mulching of trees at Treadwell Park.
- Fence screen installation at Glander fields
- Fencing completion at dog park
- Fencing install at Oakview field.
- Dog Park walkway install and opening.
- Daily grooming, lining and mowing operations in full swing.

Items we have started/continued work on:

- Start of irrigation central control project.
- Victory garden irrigation installation
- Tree screening installation at maintenance facility.
- Dog park water hook up.
- Treadwell pool house clogged pipe investigation.
- Pool opening and start up
- Kiddie pool plastering.

Staff:

- 376 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 2080 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 19% loss in workforce or 1.9 employees per day.