

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2015 in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:00 pm.

**Present:** Edward Marks, Maureen Crick Owen, PJ Yochum, Warren Spencer.

**Absent:** Patrick Barczak, Vincent Yanni, Jr., Thomas DiNicola,

**Staff Present:** Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano.

**Public:** Raymond Hoesten

**Public Participation:**

Raymond Hoesten, President of Lake Zoar Authority:

Mr. Hoesten came before the commission to request assistance and discuss some possibilities on behalf of the Lake Zoar Authority. Mr. Hoesten explained that the Lake Zoar Authority is a multi-town organization consisting of representatives from the 4 towns bordering the lake. The four towns that make up this organization are: Newtown, Southbury, Oxford and Monroe. The Authority currently docks and stores 2 patrol boats in Southbury. Mr. Hoesten expressed how the Authority is increasingly unhappy with the current fees for docking, gas and storage. Mr. Hoesten inquired if there were any possibilities for docking 2 patrol boats at Eichler's Cove or Alpine Drive Park and what the fees would be. Mr. Hoesten also suggested that the Authority could rent dock space or they can rent space and put in their own dock. Mr. Hoesten stated that this would be a great opportunity to have police presence on the lake and at the park. The 2 boats are on the lake every Saturday and Sunday and a police car is in the parking lot. This could give the public a sense of security. Chairman Marks asked if the patrol would need 24 hour access to Lake Zoar and what type of access would be needed? Mr. Hoesten answered that Alpine Drive Park would be more desirable due to easy access and more space for storage. Mr. Marks stated that boaters tend to park their boat trailers illegally at the Alpine Drive Park and it's hard to patrol. Mr. Hoesten stated that the Authority would put up a fence and that with the presence of police it could be a deterrent. Mr. Marks inquired that if the Lake Zoar Authority did lease the space, would the public still have access? Mr. Hoesten stated that it would be up to Parks and Recreation. Mr. Marks explained that at this time Parks and Recreation doesn't have the means to improve and/or patrol the area. Mr. Marks stated that the boat slip rental at Eichler's Cove is \$1,144.00/per slip. Mr. Marks inquired if each town representing the Lake Zoar Authority contributes the same amount of money? Mr. Hoesten stated that for the most part they do and that the money goes towards patrolling the lake, water quality and education. The Authority is currently paying \$3500.00/per season to dock; \$375.00 for boat trailer storage; \$1315.00 for winter boat storage; and \$6.00/per gallon for gas. Mr. Marks explained that Parks and Recreation doesn't provide fuel or shrink wrap. Mr. Hoesten explained that he was still in the information gathering stage and needed to report back to the Lake Zoar Authority Commission. Mr. Marks stated that Director Amy Mangold and Assistant Director Carl Samuelson would be in touch with Mr. Hoesten to get more details on the type of storage and access that will be needed. The Parks and Recreation Commission will then make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman and ask for guidance on how to move forward. Mr. Hoesten inquired if there is storage area at Eichler's Cove for life jackets. Mr. Marks said that there is a lifeguard shed, but would need to take a look to see

how much storage would be available. Mr. Samuelson inquired on what the contribution from each town was? Mr. Hoesten responded that it was an estimate of \$35,000 per year. In Mr. Hoesten's last remarks to the commission, he stated that the Alpine Drive Park would be more desirable because of the pavilion and the potential storage area. Ms. Mangold explained that there is no public access due to the poor condition of the ramp and boaters constantly getting stuck.

**Old Business:**

Budget Update:

Chairman Marks distributed to the commission the updated written Budget showing the 2016-17 budget. The First Selectman Proposed Budget of \$2,467,495, which includes mandatory pay increases. The request for an additional maintainer position was removed as well as Marketing and Advertising. First Selectman Pat Llodra requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission prioritized the Capital Improvements.

**Capital Improvements Priority List:**

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|---|----------|
| 1. Access Control Infrastructure Phase II                       | \$18,000 |
| 2. Permanent Recycling Containers Phase II                      | \$ 8,000 |
| 3. Tennis Court/Basketball Court Surfacing                      | \$18,000 |
| 4. Install Electrical Service & Irrigation at Walnut Tree Field | \$25,000 |
| 5. Lightning Detection System Expansion                         | \$18,000 |

Assistant Director Carl Samuelson suggested removing Lightning Detection System Expansion.

**New Business:**

Special Event/Tournament Fee Schedule:

Director Amy Mangold Distributed the new Parks and Recreation Special Event or Tournament Request form and discussed the new fees. Ms. Mangold requested the assistance of the commission on if the fees should be deposited into the general fund or surcharge. The consensus of the commission was to deposit the monies into the surcharge marked as Fairfield Hills Maintenance. Ms. Yochum inquired on what organizations are required to pay these fees? Ms. Mangold responded that it would be any organization that wasn't part of the Town of Newtown Government Agency. Mr. Marks went on to explain that Parks and Recreation use many man hours to set up and/or clean up after events at Fairfield Hills. Ms. Crick Owen inquired on the process of the paperwork for an event on Fairfield Hills. Assistant Director RoseAnn Reggiano explained that Christal Preszler from the Fairfield Hills Authority receives the application and reserves the property and Parks and Recreation collects the fees. There was a question on if an organization doesn't want to pay? Mr. Marks suggested that Parks and Recreation document this and hold the organization liable for all cleanup and repairs.

2016 Meeting Schedule:

The clerk distributed the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule for 2016 for review and vote.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner PJ Yochum made a motion to approve the Newtown Parks and Recreation 2016 Commission Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.**

## **Correspondence:**

- Director Mangold shared an email that she received from Rich Boritz: *Good Morning Amy, I had to let you know that my grandchildren had a fabulous time at the new playground at Dickinson this past holiday. It is a wonderful place for children... as well as their grandparents. Please pass along my congratulations for a job well done to the P&R Commission!*
- Ms. Mangold also shared a letter from Justin Saint, thanking Parks and Recreation for the Lee Davenson Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Saint will be attending the University of Miami and will be studying Economics. He wrote that he and his family are very thankful and appreciative of the scholarship. Ms. Mangold went on to explain that the Lee Davenson Scholarship is funded by the proceeds from the Rooster Run.

## **Director's Report:**

### Amy Mangold, Director:

- Jeremy O'Connell, Coach for OC Sports AAU Basketball Newtown Hawks, completed an Organization Request for Facility Allocation Form, requesting practice time at the High School gym. Mr. O'Connell requested the gym 3 days a week in the evenings from April thru July. The Hawks consists of 6 teams of which 80% are Newtown residents. The current Field Administration and Facility Use Manual doesn't include indoor facility, so Ms. Mangold requested guidance from the commission on whether the fee schedule should be based on a per hour or surcharge basis? To stay consistent with the Field Use Manual the commission's consensus was to charge per hour.
- Ms. Mangold explained that the department was in the process of putting together a Rules & Regulation Policy for jet skis, which is a new amenity, at Eichler's Cove, for summer 2016.

### Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

- The department is fully staffed for the first time in over a year. There is a lot of excitement for the talents that the new staff brings to the team.
- The skating rink has been installed at Dickinson Park and should be ready in the next week if the weather remains cold.
- The dead Ash trees between Dickinson and Liberty have been removed.
- The skate Park graffiti has been removed.
- The few boards that were checking on the new playground at Dickinson Park have been replaced, and the seating area at the playground has been completed.
- The ornamental grasses at Treadwell Park have been cut for the season and catch basin sumps have been cleaned out.
- Awaiting a repair coil for the building heat at Treadwell Park.
- Lightning detection sensors at Treadwell Park have been removed for the season.
- Started meadow mowing and brush removal at Fairfield Hills, after the fall cleanup was completed. Currently mowing all the meadows and brush hogging invasive plant material.
- The rotted fence at Liberty Field has been removed and a new entrance sign has been installed.
- Snow mold protection has been applied as well as Wintergreen turf colorant for wind desiccation protection at Oakview. Burlap install was completed for the boxwoods as well.
- Brush that fell following heavy winds has been removed from Walnut Tree
- New docks have been pre fit and anchors made for new dock sections at Eichler's Cove. Lightning detection sensors have been removed for the season.
- The infield at Newtown High School Baseball Field has been almost completely rebuilt. There is some minor baseline sodding to do when weather allow.

- At the Dog Park all the rock areas inside the fence have been removed and piped the splash pad drain to a new catch basin outside of the fence. All the low spots along fencing were filled or the fence was lowered. Two sections of damaged fencing here have been repaired as well.

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- Mad Dash is scheduled for June 11, 2016. Ms. Reggiano is looking for volunteers.
- Strut Your Mutt is scheduled for May 14, 2016 at Fairfield Hills Campus
- Rooster Run is scheduled for June 18, 2016. Ms. Reggiano is looking for a new Coordinator. The coordinator from last year, Mark Gerace is passing on the reins.
- All the summer 2016 staff applications have been mailed and the deadline for return employment is March 10, 2016.

Ms. Reggiano explained to the Commission that Parks and Recreation was creating a Head Counselors position. This person will help train the new counselors.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen made a motion to approve Minutes from November 10, 2015 Commission Meeting. Commissioner PJ Yochum seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.**

**Chairman's Report:**

Memorial Update:

Mr. Marks, Ms. Mangold, Kyle Lyddy, Stantec and other members from the Memorial Committee met to discuss plans and a vision for the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial. Stantec had a lot of great suggestions. Ms. Mangold had an opportunity to walk Fairfield Campus with Stantec and look at a possible site for the Memorial. Gary Sorge, Vice President with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. came up with a Memorial Site Assessment at Fairfield Hills and sent a list of tasks and fees to Ms. Mangold to review with Kyle Lyddy.

Long-Term Project List:

**CIP Requests – Not Approved by BOS in Plan thru 2020-21**

1. Waterfront Park Improvements
2. Maintenance Yard Improvements
3. FFH Duplex Remediation
4. Treadwell Park Improvements
5. Fairfield Hills Field Plan Phase I
6. Rail Trail Extension

**Additional Projects Considered:**

1. Community Field House at Fairfield Hills 3500-4000 ft. total, with lockers, concession stand, pavilion, Water, electric, Security, Furniture, Lighting, viewing area, possible discrete scoring.
2. Expansion to Skate Park
3. Splash Pad –includes bath house
4. Pickle ball Center
5. Bleachers at Tilson
6. Fairfield Campus Enhancements – e.g.; tennis, basketball, pickle ball, orchard, playground, etc.
7. Bike Trails – Bike Playground, mountain bike trials, street bike lanes

8. Teen Center Renovation
9. Playground Replacements – Dickinson & Treadwell
10. Lake Lillinonah or Zoar Boathouse/Pavilion
11. A New Town Park – in addition to Treadwell and Dickinson.
12. Large Pavilion or Band shell – similar to Levitt Pavilion in Westport
13. Treadwell Park Improvements – pavilion repair/replacement
14. Wetland Education at Dickinson Park – additional phases of Cohen/Mangold plan
15. Portable Band stage
16. Treadwell Park Expansion – expand Park through trails and use of old SAC footprint
17. Pole Bridge Preserve Improvements
18. All Field Replacements
19. Farm/Orchard Park
20. Dickinson Park Real Estate purchase – buy adjoining residence when available
21. Artificial Turf Installation at lighted High School back field
22. Frisbee Golf Course
23. Ice Hockey Rink
24. Fairfield Hills Field Plan – Phase II

\*Based on survey of Parks & Recreation and Commissioners

**Motion:**

**Commissioner PJ Yochum made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Warren Spencer, which was carried unanimously.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

*Submitted, Gabriella Chernoff, clerk*