

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 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, Patrick Barczak, Vincent Yanni Jr., Maureen Crick Owen, Warren Spencer.

Absent: PJ Yochum, Thomas DiNicola.

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, RoseAnn Reggiano.

Staff Absent: Carl Samuelson

Public: Jillian Gibney, NHS Culinary Feeding the Need; Andrew Mangold, Greentek Organization.

Public Participation:

Jillian Gibney, NHS Culinary Feeding the Need:

Ms. Gibney is a senior at Newtown High School and is currently working on her senior project. As part of her senior project, Ms. Gibney is trying to start a charity to feed the needy by delivering food via a food truck to our local pantries. Ms. Gibney is working closely with the Newtown High School Culinary Department to help with her project. She came before the commission to ask for permission to bring food trucks into Dickinson and Treadwell Parks to sell food as part of her fundraiser. Chairman Ed Marks inquired on how the food would be prepared and explained that Parks and Recreation does have strict regulations regarding not allowing food trucks into Treadwell Park after Memorial Day. Mr. Marks did state that Ms. Gibney has full support of the Parks and Recreation Commission, based on if the health requirements have been met. Ms. Gibney explained to the commission that she has already met with the Health Department regarding the regulations of processing food and that all food will be made on site. Ms. Gibney hopes to attend college next fall and will pass the project down to a fellow Newtown High School student, while continuing to manage from school. Ms. Gibney is working with mentor, Brian Amey with the Newtown Rotary Club of Newtown to work through the process. Ms. Gibney will forward her business plan to Director Amy Mangold, which will be discussed at next month's commission meeting. Mr. Marks again iterated that this was a good cause and Ms. Gibney has the support of the Parks and Recreation commission.

Andrew Mangold, Greentek Organization:

Mr. Mangold came before the commission to present his proposal of *The Newtown Fruit Trail* project. Mr. Mangold has proposed to install a trail of fruit trees along the recreation trail at Fairfield Hills. "A trail of fruit trees to grow with children." Mr. Mangold explained that this project is for all people of all ages and is a living vision of a sustainable future. The Trees and low ground cover plantings will be planted and tended to by volunteers. Mr. Mangold has presented his business plan to the Fairfield Commission as well as Rob Sibley and received very positive and supportive feedback. The next presentation is to the First Selectman. Mr. Mangold had answered many of the Parks and Recreation commissioner's questions regarding placement of plantings on the trail, time frame, maintenance and funding. Mr. Mangold explained that he is in the process of promoting and fundraising efforts. Mr.

Mangold also explained that the planting design does not require very much maintenance. Mr. Mangold is looking at starting the project late June and will develop a strategy with his teams; and set up a plan for the purchasing and planting of vegetation. Mr. Marks asked if a future project along Wasserman's Way could be planned, which will be a good visual and promotion. Mr. Marks also stated that the commission was very enthusiastic and supportive of this project.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. made a motion to approve the Minutes from February 9, 2015 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

Charles Hepp, President of Newtown Babe Ruth Softball, called Ms. Mangold to express his excitement and support for the new baseball field project at Fairfield Hills and transforming Liberty Fields into two (2) softball fields.

Director's Report:

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Mangold has attended many meetings, including: Board of Selectman, Board of Finance and Legislative Council. Ms. Mangold attended the Legislative Council to answer questions from some of the new members regarding the Parks and Recreation surcharge. Mr. Marks and Ms. Mangold are currently preparing to present Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Legislative Council in June 2016.
- Ms. Mangold shared with the commission that all town departments are discussing shared services and eliminating duplications of services if deemed doable. Ms. Mangold explained that the ongoing exercise was/is successful and very positive. Ms. Mangold stated that the Parks and Recreation Department is running very efficiently.
- The Lion's Club is scheduled to have a Work Day on June 11, 2016, at Orchard Hill.
- Ms. Mangold stated that Mr. Samuelson is in the process of preparing bids for Dickinson and Eichler's Cove parking lots.
- Ms. Mangold explained that she is in the process of accruing an easement for Dickinson Park driveway. The driveway is very close to neighboring property and because we are redoing and not just resurfacing the driveway and parking lot we need to obtain an easement.
- Ms. Mangold wanted to express how pleased she is with the hard work and effort of RoseAnn Reggiano and Secretary Jennifer Arnold with the Spring/Summer Brochure and many new activities being offered.
- Four skateboards with artwork were donated to Parks and Recreation, from the Cultural Arts commission 12/14 warehouse. They are really special pieces of art and a thoughtful placement will be decided upon. The commission is grateful for this donation.

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- The Parks and Recreation Spring/Summer Brochure was released on March 8, 2016. Ms. Reggiano has a meeting scheduled to meet with the Newtown Bee to discuss the many new activities being offered. Ms. Reggiano is especially excited with the new activity, Paddle Boarding.
- Summer employment applications are due by March 10, 2016. Ms. Reggiano is in the process of setting up summer camp counselor training with Edge Wood Consulting.

- Annual Flashlight Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 18, 2016, at Dickinson Park, starting at 8:00pm. The Egg Hunt, with the appearance of the Spring Bunny, will be held on March 19, 2016 at 10:00am.
- A Garden Party is scheduled for May 1, 2016, at the Victory Garden. There will be a guest appearance by Dr. Joe with drums.
- Senior Prom for seniors is scheduled for May 20, 2016, from 4-8pm at Nunnwauk Meadows, Newtown.
- The Dog Park has been very busy with the nice weather. The new stone area looks good and hoping the parking lot is completed this summer.
- It has been decided that the pool lanes from Treadwell Pool will be used at Newtown High School Pool and new lines will be purchased for the Treadwell Pool.

Chairman's Report:

Edward Marks, Chairman of Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Mr. Marks attended the Legislative Council Meeting. He stated that even though an additional parks maintainer was not included in the budget proposal, there was discussion on if in the future would an additional employee be more cost beneficial vs outsourcing. The addition of a new maintainer may be considered in the future with the increase in Parks and Recreation responsibilities. The Legislative Council also asked why Parks and Recreation was responsible for winter maintenance of abutting property on Church Hill instead of the property owners. In the sidewalk easement agreement the town was assigned to maintain sidewalk and Parks and Recreation was assigned by the town to administer.
- Mr. Marks explained that the Parks and Recreation team is scheduled to present the P&R Master Plan to the Legislative Council in June, 2016.
- Mr. Marks requested that each commissioner review the list of projects that the commission has come up with and prioritize it on which would be their top Parks and Recreation projects to work on going forward. Mr. Marks will be sending out an email to the commissioners asking for at least three (3) volunteers to sit down and discuss the prioritized list with Parks and Recreation staff; Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson. The Commission should be prepared to provide a list of projects to the public, if someone from the community asks on how they can contribute to Parks and Recreation.

Commissioners Out and About:

Commissioner Maureen Owen-Crick attended the Legislative Council meeting with Mr. Marks and Ms. Mangold.

Motion:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Barczak, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

Submitted, Gabriella Chernoff, clerk