

Old Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
Memorial Town Hall
52 Lyme Street
Old Lyme, CT 06371

5 May 2016

Dear Ms. Fuchs,

Thank you for your letter dated March 22, 2016 concerning certain aspects of the Parks and Recreation Commission (P&R) activities. Below please find responses on behalf of the Commission.

ADA Compliance

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all new construction, and additions to existing facilities must be in full compliance with the ADA standards, and the P&R Commission complies with this requirement. For example Town Woods Park is ADA compliant, the proposed Haines Park Boathouse, new toilet facilities and pavilion will be ADA compliant, and the proposed new playground project at Cross Lane will be ADA compliant.

The timetable for bringing other Town facilities up to full compliance is being managed by a committee under the guidance of the Selectmen. They are part-way through conducting a town-wide self-assessment regarding ADA compliance, and once that assessment is complete, the committee will review the findings and develop a long-term plan, in association with the Board of Finance, to address deficiencies in a prioritized manner.

Meanwhile the P&R Commission continues to ensure that handicapped accessibility to P&R facilities is as good as it can be within the constraints of the existing buildings and physical environment. There are handicapped-accessible parking spots at White Sand Beach, Sound View, TWP and Cross Lane, as well as a ramp to the gazebo on White Sand beach.

If you have further questions about the timetable for the self-assessment or the long-term town compliance plan we would suggest you address them to the First Selectwoman, who is leading this effort.

Maintenance of swing sets in Town Woods Park and Cross Lane

The P&R Commission routinely performs maintenance on all playground and park equipment on an on-going basis. Equipment is examined and repaired or replaced as necessary. For example the handicapped swing at TWP is being replaced, new mulch has been spread over the TWP playground and cracks in tennis courts and basketball courts are regularly filled. Specific repairs such as replacing basketball backboards or tennis court nets are done as needed.

To ensure the safety of users, all P&R facilities undergo an annual inspection from the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), who are specialists in assessing user risk. All P&R facilities recently passed the CIRMA inspection. In addition to the CIRMA oversight, there is a town Safety Committee, which is chaired by Mr. Bugbee and has representatives from OLFD, OLEMS, Old Lyme

Police, Animal Control and CIRMA, in addition to the First Selectwoman. The Safety Committee provides oversight of safety issues throughout the town, but may also address issues that pertain to P&R facilities.

Haines Park basketball court

Renovating or replacing the Haines Park Boat House has been a topic of discussion and a likely future project for many years prior to the current project. For this reason the extent to which the basketball court at Haines Park has been maintained in recent years has been a balance between keeping it serviceable, while not spending too much town money on a facility that might ultimately be relocated as part of the BHPIC project. So cracks have routinely been filled and backboards have been replaced, but a complete resurfacing was postponed until the broader plan for the Haines Park complex was developed.

We hope this addresses any concerns you have.

Sincerely,

Old Lyme Parks & Rec. Commission