**Park and Recreation Commission**

Minutes of the Meeting

**January 8, 2019**

**Meeting called to order:** 7:31pm.

**Commissioners in Attendance:**  George Caye, Mike Kelly, Toby Lewis, Bill Nowak, Renee Powell, and Dan Rezende.

**Also in Attendance:** Ray Favreau, John Caldwell, and Kerry Macchi

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Toby and seconded by George to approve the December 11th minutes. Passed unanimously.

**Public Input:** None present.

**Special Reports:** Master Plan Revision- Ray had nothing to report. He is still in the process of making some updates and additions to the document.

**Report of Council Liaison:** Erica shared her appreciation with the commission for being willing to move the meeting location and test out the new initiative of recording the meetings. She shared that the town officially acquired the property on Ellington Road that will be reestablished as a parking lot at the opposite side of Wapping Park. She also thanked the Commission for their hard work on keeping projects under budget so that funds could be transferred to pay for the overage of Phase II of the Skate Park.

**OSTF**: George reported that the OSTF did not hold a meeting, so there was no report.

**Report of the B of E Liaison:**  None due to the absence of the liaison.

**Report of Parks and Rec. Director:** Ray provided updates on the following:

* The Parks and Rec department is releasing a “support piece” for the referendum on the last elementary school.
* We are very close to renting out the Banquet Hall at Wapping, and have only minor updates left.
* Wapping Tennis Courts- $50k of work on the fence and lighting is currently being done.
* Sunday 1/12/20 is the second annual Resolution Run, a 5k that is partnered with the Hartford Marathon. Currently there are 567 registered and they expect to have more register the day of the event.
* The Spring/Summer 2020 brochure is currently in the works.
* 1/29/20- SWPRD is hosting a quarterly CRPA session on impacts of the new minimum wage increase.

John provided updates on the following:

* The Parks crew is working to dismantle the “giving tree” at Nevers Park.
* Working on the invasives at Lawrence Road Park.
* Tree removal along the fence line at the back edge of the property at VMP.
* Will be installing the new crosswalk signals on Nevers Road from the parking lot across to Porters Hill.

Discussion: Bill Nowak asked Ray how many part-time staff we currently have at Parks and Rec. Ray responded that we have upwards of 200 seasonal part time employees and 100 contracted service providers. The cost increase to the department as a result of the minimum wage increase will be close to $500k. Mike Kelly asked if the Town Council is supporting this increase. Ray explained that the Recreation division is funded solely on user fees, not in any part by the town budget.

**Other Business: Discussion Topic:** Capital Improvements Projects Budget 2020-2021. The projects on the list include:

* Wapping Tennis Courts- Complete reconstruction
* Bringing utilities to the Barton Property
* Building a utility storage unit for Parks equipment
* Reconstruction of the roadway near the Rotary Pavilion.
* Showmobile

**SWW&WW:**  Applying for more grant money for the Cross Town Trail

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:04pm – motion made by Toby Lewis and seconded by George Caye- passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: February 12, 2020**

Respectfully Submitted – Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary