**Park and Recreation Commission**

Minutes of the Meeting

**March 11, 2020**

**Meeting called to order:** 7:33pm.

**Commissioners in Attendance:**  George Caye, Genevieve Coursey, Ritu Goel, Bill Nowak, Renee Powell, and Mike LeBlanc.

**Also in Attendance:** Erica Evans, Ray Favreau, and Kerry Macchi

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by George and seconded by Bill to approve the January 8th 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 that the Town Council was just doing a walk-through of the new PRS school. They were discussing the plans for the fields.

**OSTF**: George reported that at the last meeting, they discussed the property at 131 Chapel Road. It is a 24-acre parcel that is mainly wetlands. It does not connect to any other open space.

**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:

* COVID-19- Town department heads, Board of Education and the Health Dept have been meeting to discuss actions that need to be taken to lessen the spread of Covid-19. Any gathering of 100 or more has been cancelled, including a few very popular Parks and Rec activities and events. Any gatherings less than 100 people need to include a roster or a sign in sheet so people are able to be contacted in case someone is found to be infected after that event. At this time, events that are planned for May are being discussed at a later date. The situation is being evaluated day-to-day.
* Chestnut Ridge is a new development in South Windsor in which the developer is donating open space to the town for access to the future Cross Town Trail.
* The bicycle repair station/pump was installed outside of the new restrooms at Nevers Park. The Parks department also built a new footbridge at the base of Porters Hill.
* The Parks crew is a few weeks ahead of schedule on field maintenance due to the warm temperatures. This will give them a jump start before the April 1st usual opening of the fields.
* On the West side of the Bark Park, the Parks crew cleared out the overgrown invasives. The barn is now exposed and they will plant grass and wildflowers there. They added a few new “bone benches” to the Bark Park and a few signs to remind the public to clean up after their dogs.
* There was a request for some lights to be installed at the hitting building because it is very dark when parents are dropping off and picking up kids there. Ray said he would look into some options.
* The outbuildings at the Priest Property and 1355 Ellington Road are currently being tested and contain some hazardous materials. They will be properly removed before being raised.
* The Wapping Banquet hall is open and taking reservations!
* The Spring/Summer 2020 brochure is at the printer and will be distributed to families of South Windsor over the next week.
* Half of the money was spent on the Wapping tennis court repairs, replacing the fencing and lights. The timing is not ideal to continue work, as the SWHS tennis teams will begin their season soon.
* SWW&WW would like to send up to seven people to be certified as a licensed bicycle instructor at $350 per person. This is an asset to our community because of the programs and bicycle education they provide to our town.

\*George made a motion to allocate up to $2450 from the Master Plan budget for seven certifications. Ritu Goel seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.\*

* SWPRD did a drawing for our 3,000th “like” on Facebook and gave away a $300 gift certificate to use on a future program or rental.

**SWW&WW:**  awarded $100,000 for the planning and design of the Cross Town Trail and just recently were awarded $35,000 more after reapplying for unused money.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:50pm – motion made by George Caye and seconded by Ritu Goel- passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: April 8, 2020**

Respectfully Submitted – Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary