

## **Park and Recreation Commission**

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**October 14, 2020**

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

**Commissioners in Attendance:** George Caye, Genevieve Coursey, Michael Kelly, James Hennessey, Michael LeBlanc, Toby Lewis, Renee Powell, and Dan Rezende.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Toby and seconded by Dan to approve the July 15th minutes. Passed unanimously.

**Public Input:** We received two calls from SWHS students, Xavier Crane and Dylan Hutton, who both expressed their interest for a deck hockey rink in South Windsor, as it would be a great low-cost option for kids to play hockey year-round. They started a petition to gauge the interest in town which already had about 150 signatures. The third call was from Doug Hutton, a parent of one of the previous callers, who showed his support for the kids in their request for a deck hockey rink. This would be enjoyed by kids and adults that play recreationally. Mr. Hutton will email all their contact information and the link to the petition.

**Report of Council Liaison:** Councilor Evans shared with the commission that last week, the naming committee met and discussed two different items that were voted on. She thought it was important to seek approval and support from the Commission because of their involvement with the properties in question. The South Windsor Fairgrounds at Rye Street Park will be recommended to the council to be named the John J. Mitchell Fairgrounds at Rye Street Park and the driveway between the upper and lower parking lots at VMP will be named Al Larson Lane. Both are slated for discussion at the October 19<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting.

**Special Reports:** Since we did not have a meeting in September, we were due to hold elections for officers.

Chair- Mr. Caye nominated Mr. Lewis for the position of Chair, and it was seconded by Mike Kelly and Renee Powell. No other nominations were made for the position of Chair. Naming Mr. Toby Lewis as Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

Vice Chair- Mr. Lewis nominated Mr. Kelly for the position of Vice Chair, and it was seconded by Mr. Caye. No other nominations were made for the position of Vice Chair. Naming Mr. Michael Kelly as the Vice Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

Secretary- Mr. Lewis nominated Mr. LeBlanc for the position of Secretary, and it was seconded by Mr. Caye. No other nominations were made for the position of Secretary. Naming Mr. Michael LeBlanc as the Secretary for the Park and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

Master Plan Update: Mr. Favreau is working on a way for every member to receive a digital copy of the Master Plan that they can each make changes or updates to. He would like to present it to the Town Council before the end of the year.

**OSTF:** No updates to report, as there was no meeting last month.

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

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

- All summer programs ran very successfully and the department was glad to provide some programming for our residents.
- Ray informed the Commission of the “October Happenings” that are taking place in the Parks and Rec Department, which include a Drive-In movie showing Hocus Pocus, a Fall yard decorating contest, a trick-or-treat drive thru event (Drive-Boo), and a Halloween themed Egg Hunt (Egg-Tober).
- Current Capital Projects Budget discussion- \$150,000 for re-paving roadway from Chief Ryan Way to the Pavilion at Nevers Park (completed), \$15,000 for SWW&WW for connector paths. 2020-2021 additional projects being funded by the Special Revenue Recreation fund: \$35,000 for Showmobile, \$50,000 for engineering study of VMP, and \$50,000 for engineering study of Wapping Tennis Courts.

- Future Capital Projects- Ray urged the Commission to start thinking of ideas for projects that they would like to see implemented and that Ray can present to the Capital Projects Committee for the 2021-2022 budget year.

John Caldwell, Superintendent of Parks, gave an update on the following:

- Pepin Field at the Little League complex was completely re-done in house, saving the town about \$150,000. Major B field is now under construction, adding irrigation and removing some of the fence.
- Scheduled the abatement for the outbuildings on the property at 1355 Ellington Road and The Priest Property.

Discussion: Mr. Kelly asked Ray and John their thoughts on the deck hockey topic. They explained that they have been talking recently about this kind of addition to town, and were thinking of converting the tennis courts at Rye Street Park to a split between Pickle Ball courts and deck hockey. John explained that the work would have to be done in-house to save money, but they think they can make it work. Mr. Hennessey asked how the 4<sup>th</sup> “R” program was running and Ray gave an update on how the school year started with the cohorts splitting their week between their prospective schools and Wapping and how they have transitioned for the month of October back to the schools full time. Mr. Caye asked when the Capital Projects Committee is set to meet and if the commission should prepare a prioritized list. Ray said that he is going to try and see if we can find a time to meet in November so we can get that done before the Capital Projects Committee meets.

**Other Business:**

**SWW&WW:** No reports

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:40pm – motion made by Toby Lewis and seconded by George Caye- passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: December 9, 2020**

Respectfully Submitted – Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary