

Wallingford Parks & Recreation Commission

Special Meeting

Amended Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 13, 2023 @ 5:30 pm

Parks & Recreation Department

6 Fairfield Blvd., Wallingford

- Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Sullivan called the meeting to order @ 5:30 pm
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman John Sullivan, Vice Chairman Don Crouch, Lori Cooke-Marra, Lars Edeen, Steve Rossacci

Recreation Department Staff Present: Kenny Michaels, Director of Recreation Parks & Recreation

- Approval of prior meeting(s) minutes (June 21, 2023)

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Don Crouch and seconded by Steve Rossacci to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2023 meeting. Vote: unanimous

- Public Comment (10 minutes) – none
- Trails Work Group – Scott Gray - Brief Overview

Kenny introduced Scott Gray to the group. Approximately two years ago, Scott wanted to create a Trails Work Group to have a trail system. It started at Tyler Mill because Scott was a steward on the Conservation Commission and an avid mountain biker. After meeting with the Mayor, the Trails Work Group was approved. The Trails Work Group is led by Scott Gray, Diane Lendler and Mike Miller. The Group is made up of users that know the trails, work on the trails and use the trails. Many volunteers help with projects that the group is working on.

Scott Gray: He handed out the last three reports that he gave to the Conservation Commission at the last three meetings along with the summary of the Trails Work Group and the mission **(See attached)**. Scott has a lot of training in the outdoors. The Trails Work Group was created in April 2023 and since then they have made tremendous accomplishments. There are protocols for proposals. The proposal is given to Kenny Michaels to review. If Kenny agrees with it, it then goes to the Conservation Commission. They will listen to Scott's proposal and ask questions. They will make recommendations, and Kenny will make the final decision. If it is approved, Scott will take it to the Trails Work Group and they will bring in volunteers. Once the trails are blazed and re-routed, mapping will need to be done. Scott says he engages with the public on the trails to see what they like and don't like about the trails.

- Fall P&R Brochure (Lori Cooke-Marra) - Lori found a few inconsistencies and misspellings in the Parks & Rec Brochure. The next brochure will be the Spring Brochure. Lori would like to be involved with the proof reading of the next brochure. Lori will look through the Fall Brochure, and any corrections she will inform the Parks & Rec staff to make the changes.

- Cameras Doolittle Park - The cameras are up and running. The cameras are going live stream to the Dispatch Department at the Police Department. The License Plate reader is working well. There is a License Plate reader at the main entrance to Doolittle Park and one on Henry St. into the back parking lot. First ARPA fund project that was completed. If anyone on the Commission is interested in taking a trip to the Police Department to see how the cameras are working, John Sullivan will schedule a time.

- Community Pool Update - Town Council had voted in favor at a recent Town Council Meeting to put the Community Pool Project back out to bid. Awaiting the Mayor's direction on this to see how the town will proceed.

- Legacy Garden Nominees Update and Ceremony - Kenny indicated that a dedication may be done in the Spring of 2024. Kenny said there is enough space for four more monuments in the garden. There are criteria that would have to be met in order to be qualified for a monument. If there are any groups that the Commission members can think of that would be a good nominee, let the team know at the next meeting on November 8.

- Update and Discussion on Organizing Park Cleanups
 - Wallace Park - John has been working at Wallace Park with the Parks & Rec Maintainers. They painted the pillars white, planter brackets were hung and plants were put on two sides of each pillars. John planted flowers. John painted all the electrical and traffic control boxes and painted the irrigation cage. John asked Public Works for water, and he is now able to water the plants. The center monuments were edged by the Parks & Rec Maintainers. John planted 24 mums around the center monuments. Kenny and John co-signed a letter to the Electrical Division as well as the DPUC to put planters on the posts going up the side of Quinnipiac and Ward St. Specs are needed. Lori asked who will maintain the planters. John has a couple of options for who will maintain them. John would also like to get power at the center circle. He would like to put two flag poles up and have them illuminated. A dog bag dispenser will be installed. John would like to walk around to the neighbors houses with a letter stating improvements have been made to the park and we would ask them to help us keep the park clean and report any problems to the Parks & Rec Department. When mums are ready to be taken out, John is going to try using red stone instead of mulch.

 - Harrison Park Dugouts – no update

 - West Side Field - Steve Rossacci will be working on West Side Field in the next couple weeks. Softball building to be painted.

- Dutton Park - Needs to be cleaned up. The Mayor was approached to have a landscaper come out and work on a design for the park. A bid specification will be worked on for this. The gold paint on the monuments are faded. Nolan's has done work on the monuments in the past and will restore the names on the monuments.
- Director Michaels P&R Update – **(See attached)**

Next Parks & Recreation Meeting Wednesday, November 8th, 2023

Motion to adjourn made by: Steve Rossacci

Second by: Lori Cooke-Marra

Vote: unanimous

Adjourned @ 6:46 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Loriann Ouellette

Wallingford Parks & Recreation