

Wallingford Parks & Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 @ 5:30 PM

6 Fairfield Blvd. Wallingford
Room 4 Conference Room

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 11-20-24

AT 10:19 am AND RECEIVED BY

MEETING MINUTES

Krista Pango TOWN CLERK

- **Call Meeting to Order** - John Sullivan Called the meeting to order @ 5:30 p.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Roll Call**

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman John Sullivan, Vice Chairman Don Crouch, Steve Rossacci, Lori Cooke-Marra, Lars Edeen (arrived 5:37pm)

Recreation Staff in Attendance: Kenny Michaels, Director and Shawn Keogh, Superintendent

- **Approval of prior meeting(s) minutes (September 11, 2024)**

A motion was made by Don Crouch and seconded by Steve Rossacci to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 11, 2024.

Vote: Unanimous

- **Public Comment (10 minutes)** – none
- **Nominations and Vote on Chair and Vice Chair positions**

Nominations:

- Don Crouch nominated John Sullivan as Chair, seconded by Lori Cooke-Marra
- Steve Rossacci nominated Don Crouch as Vice Chair, seconded by John Sullivan

A motion was made by Lori Cooke-Marra to close the nominations and accept John Sullivan as Chair and Don Crouch as Vice Chair, seconded by Steve Rossacci. Approved Unanimously

- **Field Conditions – Lori Cooke-Marra**

- Lori informed the commission that the soccer fields are showing large patches of invasive weeds at Pragemann, East Center and Woodhouse. Discussions regarding the Vendor, their fall field application plan, and future plans for Spring 2025 were had. Kenny added that he is scheduling conference calls with Public Works and the Mayor for future irrigation plans and the possibility of hiring a Field/Turf Consultant and a Municipal Grounds Consultant vs. having Public Works perform these tasks. John asked to continue this discussion at future meetings.

- **Community Pool Project Update – Kenny Michaels** – Kenny updated that TLBA P.O. was sent and received. P.O. is \$70K for determining Code updates and review Downes Construction bid specs.

- **Explore CT State funding for field improvements and possible turf – Steve Rossacci**
 - Steve asked if they could sit with the Mayor and local State Representatives to find grants and other funding sources to assist Wallingford in field improvements and turf field options. Turf would be beneficial for multi sport use and lower overall cost for field maintenance. John asked Kenny to write a letter to Mayor Cervoni requesting that the Mayor initiate a conversation with State Representatives to assist Wallingford in finding funding.
- **Parks & Recreation Updates – Kenny Michaels, Director – Kenny reviewed the November Director's Report (*attached*)**
 - **Landscape Design for Dutton** – John stated that the town may need to add a new monument for "The War on Terror" in the near future. Discussion to continue at future meetings.
 - There was a brief discussion about the 2025-2026 Master Parks Plan and Open Informational Session. Discussion will continue at future meetings.

Next Parks & Recreation Meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Motion to adjourn made by: Lars Edeen **Seconded by:** Steve Rossacci **Vote:** Unanimous

Adjourned @ 6:37 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Stacey Hoppes
Secretary
Wallingford Parks & Recreation Commission

Recreation Commission Director's Report November 13, 2024

Programs/Events:

- Halloween Event October 18th was held on South Main St. Estimated 2,000 – 2,500 in attendance for the event.
- Nine and A Chicken Scavenger Hunt Sponsored By Chick Fil A November 15th
- Holiday Stroll Saturday December 6th
- Seasons of Celebration Saturday December 7th
- Weber and Gannon Youth Basketball Team selection underway for the 2024-2025 season

Projects/Facilities:

- Have a PO to a vendor for the hallway carpets to be replaced in the Recreation Department. Project began on Monday October 14th and concluded on Wednesday October 14th.
- Main office and internal offices recently painted
- Have a PO to vendor for the repair of storm damaged fencing at the rear of the Dog Park. This project was completed on October 4th.
- This fall we will obtain quotes on the shoreline land clearing at Community Lake. This project is done (2) times a year. In the late fall and Spring. In progress
- Working with Wallingford Little League and Yalesville LL on the reconstruction of Field 1 at Keller Field 1. Both leagues unanimously voted to merge in the 2025 season as one LL. This is great news for baseball in the Wallingford Community. Money for the completion of this project will come as a donation from Wallingford LL. This project will be in place of the Community Lake Project proposed by Joe Corso. A CL field project is still on the table, based on remaining funds but will not be the proposed project that was proposed before the commission. The Town Council approved the donation of work for this project in the amount of \$183,656. This is the total field renovation of infield and outfield of field 1, renovation of infields on field 3 and 5. Project began on Thursday November 7th.
- Town Council approved on November 12, 2024 an appropriation of \$11,300 of ARPA Funding to install a sidewalk/walkway and (2) benches along the new basketball court at Doolittle Park on Wall St. side.
- Working with Town Engineering Dept., Public Works and Risk Manager on a redesign of Lufbury Park Pavilion and Play Area. The plan is to move both to the open grass area formerly where the ball field was. Conceptual Design of Play Equipment from Kompan is attached. **STILL IN PROGRESS**
- Pragemann Park Basketball Court project went out to bid and has been awarded to Hinding Sport Courts \$160,625. Project start date TBD.
- Working with Eagle Scout Noah Cutler and Bob Beaumont with Noah's Eagle Scout Project on re-plaquing the monumental trees at upper Harrison.
- Public Works began light bulb replacement at park ball fields November 4th West Side Softball/Baseball, Pat Wall Field, Doolittle Park have been completed. Pragemann Park in progress.

Parks and Recreation Staff Changes

- September 3rd is the closing date for applications for the Recreation Programs Specialist Position. We are hoping to have this position filled by end of Sept./Early Oct. November 6th we held final interviews with the final 5 candidates for the open Recreation Program Specialist Position. I am

currently concluding reference calls and hope to have an offer submitted to a candidate in the next day or two.

Upcoming –

- Discuss Potential Landscape Design Project for Dutton
- Pragemann Park Dugout Expansion
- Pragemann Park Pavilion Conversion into storage garage for Lacrosse and Football