

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department
Parks & Recreation Commission
Minutes for Wednesday, October 14, 2020
8:00 a.m. at Parks and Recreation Department**

Commissioners in Attendance:

Don Crouch, Dave Gelo, Jason Michael, Steve Rossacci, and Mike Savenelli Sr

Recreation Commission Members Absent:

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

Special Guests: Wes Ulbrich, resident

Opening Remarks: Chairperson Dave Gelo called the meeting to order @ 8:08 a.m.

Minutes:

A motion made by Mike Savenelli Sr. and seconded by Jason Michael to approved minutes from the September meeting.

Agenda Items:

1. Wallace Park - Legacy Garden – Presentation Rescheduled

Kenny has not received an update from the company on the status of delivery of the stone. The company said the stones should be ready by the second week in October. All the pants were removed except a tree. In the spring mulch or stone will need to be added to the area.

2. Review Park Fees

Kenny said with the Fall programs starting he did not have time to meet with his managers to discuss rental fees. He will setup a meeting and bring the information back for the November meeting.

3. Community Lake – Shoreline Clearing

Kenny and Dave met with Larry's Land Clearing to review the work that needs to be done at Community Lake shoreline. Larry will send over a quote to the general mailbox.

4. P&R By-Laws Draft - Don Crouch

Don sent the revised By-Laws to the Commissioners. The Commission will review and discuss at the November meeting.

5. Prageman Park – Rear New Field - Update

Winding Brook is coming Thursday (10/15) to install the sod. It should be completed in one day. Dave walked the park and notice a 3'x5' slab and questioned why it was there. Kenny said that is used as an end post for practice. Once the season is over the end posts are removed.

6. Community Pool Update - Mike Savenelli

The Pool Committee met on Sept 29th to discuss the pool and the next steps. Councilperson Chris Shortell and Christina Tatta were in attendance. Councilperson Tatta said she would like to have

an RFP for the renovation of Community Pool to compare the cost with building a new aquatic area. An estimate of \$200,000-\$300,000 was given to do a proper renovation quote. Mike said he hoped that everyone understood the additional cost of doing an RFP when all of that was reviewed and the best option was to build new.

Kenny and Mike will meet with the Mayor to review the status of the project. The Mayor voted the project from moving forward in the summer due to the COVID outbreak and the financial impact to residents. Other towns continue to move forward with new projects during the COVID pandemic.

Unfortunately, when the design company presented the initial figure in 2017 the projected estimate was much lower than the architectural/technical company's estimate. Ideally, the Committee would like this back on the agenda early spring. This would be the best for planning purposes for either the new pool project or reopening the pool in July 2021. The Budget for 2020-2021 does not include any resources toward the pool any resources that would be needed for the pool will need to wait until the new fiscal year of 2021-2022.

7. Investigate charging YMCA and Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club for use of parks.

Groups are using the park or building and collecting money from participants. The consensus of the committee is these groups are receiving a financial benefit from utilizing town property. There are expenses to the town associated with groups using town facilities.

Kenny said the fee maybe reduced because they are utilizing it for more than one day.

Kenny will review the information and present the results to the Commission in November.

8. Pickleball Courts

Question was asked if it is possible to get more pickleball courts. There are currently eight courts now in town. Four additional courts were added by June 30th and two courts were converted tennis courts. That would mean 24 people could play in an hour. Kenny did receive a request to overlay tennis courts at Community Lake, but when the layout was reviewed onsite the morning/evening sun would be directly in the line of sight.

Pickleball courts and portable nets have been successful at Harrison Park. The Group was thankful and is still out there with solid numbers playing.

9. Open Discussion (2/3 vote required for any item)

A **Motion**: was made by Dave to allow a discussion on swings at the parks

Seconded and passed Motion to allow discussion on swings seconded and approved.

Wallace, Lufbery, Marcus Cooke, Pire and Community Lake all seem to need more sand under the swings. Kenny said that he is looking to have each park swing area redone.

The park entrance signs are on Kenny's list of things to do. The wording on some of the signs is so small it is hard to read. Kenny wants the rules easily read when you pass through a park.

Jason wanted to setup a time to walkthrough Community Garden. The date is Wednesday, October 21st at 9:30am at the Community Garden. Shirley will send Gary Copas an invite to attend.

Wes Ulbrich thanked everyone for their work on the Rec Commission.

Directors Report: Ken Michaels

A meeting was held with the Health Director, Steve Civitelli; Greg Morrone and Jim Walsh, League Director; Shawn Keogh, Recreation Program Specialist on basketball and volleyball. It was determined we can move forward with a 2020-2021 youth and adult basketball season, at this time. Payment for registration began on Monday, October 5th. As of today, modifications discussed and potentially in place for this season. Smaller rosters, from 8 to 10 kids, 4 v 4 game play, one game on one court per hour, 5-6 practices leading into the game play. Once game play begins, practices will end as we do not have the schools or in-house gym space.

Fall programs are underway, with small amount set to begin the next week. No final registration numbers yet. Enrollment slowly on the uptick, but still far off our 2019 numbers.

Recent string of graffiti problems in parks throughout town. Most notably Doolittle Park, Prageman, and Fresh Meadows. All appear to be the same person or group of persons as the graffiti and names used are all the same. Police reports have been filed with WPD. Per community policing request, back of Doolittle building has been cleared of brush and debris.

Doolittle building exterior red walls have been painted. PD has informed me they will be renovating the building, replacing exterior eaves, replacing ceilings in the building.

Pat Wall and Harrison Ball Fields have been aerated and drill seeded. Pat Wall project was a collaboration with VO-Ag Students at Lyman Hall. Harrison was done by PW. Both fields are closed for usage in hopes of regrowth of grass for the spring season.

PW has begun tilling and re-claying the infields of ball fields. Vets 1-2, Harrison, West Side baseball, Community Lake, Moses Y Beach, Pat Wall done to date.

Next Commission Meeting – Wednesday, November 18, 2020 @ 8:00 AM

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:28 a.m. by Dave Gelo and seconded by Mike Savenelli

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Barillaro, Sr Clerk
Wallingford Parks and Recreation