

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department
Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda
Minutes for Wednesday, June 9, 2021
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:

Lauren Takores, Record Journal Reporter

Opening Remarks: Vice-Chairperson Mike Savenelli called the meeting to order @ 8:01 a.m.

Minutes:

A motion made by Jason Michael seconded by Steve Rossacci to approved minutes from the May 12, 2021 meeting.

Public Question/Answering:

Agenda Items:

1. Changes of Commission Chairman

Dave has decided to step down as Chairperson. Mike wanted to thank Dave for his dedication in Chairing the Rec Commission for so many years. Mike, Vice-Chairman, will be acting Chairman. Mike said he spoke with Jason and he is willing to take on the Chair position. Steve thanked Dave for making his joining the Rec Commission seamless and for hard work. Mike made a formal Motion: To make Jason Michael Chairman of the Rec Commission. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Kenny thanked Dave for the 16 years as Rec Commission Chair. When Kenny became the Director, Dave made the transition very easy.

2. Park fees update – Kenny Michaels

Kenny attended the Town Council meeting last night for the Park Fees and waiver provision packet. The Park Fees were what Kenny and the Rec Commission updated, the Town Council approved the new fees. The Waiver Provision Packet that Kenny created and the Town Attorney edited and simplified by request of the Mayor was also then modified by the Mayor. Kenny had two meetings with the Mayor to revise the packet. Any Wallingford 501C3 organization can apply for a full fee waiver. The Mayor wanted the Waiver Provision Packet to be a full waiver and not have a sliding fee. Organizations can ‘rent’ a park for profit and for consecutive days which may have an impact on the public wanting to utilize the park.

Kenny and the Rec Commission developed a Waiver Provision that had a percentage discount range.

A question was raised as to the Ordinances for the Park & Rec, specifically the ones below.

§ 151-7 **Facility permit required; compliance with conditions; issuance.**

E. Standards for issuance. The Director shall issue a facility permit when he finds that:

(1) The proposed use will not interfere with the use of any other park facility or the enjoyment of the park by the public.

(4) The application does not unreasonably reserve the park facility for multiple dates.

Who enforces these Ordinances when they are being violated? How could the Town Council approve a Waiver Provision packet when it violates the Ordinances?

The Rec Commission stated they know Kenny worked really hard on getting the original Waiver Provision packet detailed to have specific information on the waiver process.

It really is too bad that all that analyze and work was not utilized.

The Town Council asked very few questions and the vote was unanimously approved.

3. **Advertising signs in parks – Jason Michael**

Kenny is setting up a meeting to meet the new Planning and Zoning Director and discuss the best approach on how to proceed.

4. **Coalition Life is Good, park clean up group – Jason Michael**

Kenny was to meet with the Coalition for a Better Wallingford, but the meeting was cancelled due to illness. Jason questioned “Life is Good” logo as advertising on any sign in a park.

5. **Wallace Park – Legacy Gardens, Trees – Mike Savenelli**

Mike asked if flowering trees could be put at the Legacy Gardens as the original design plans had them.

Kenny said he thinks it looks nice and is wide open area, especially as it is an entrance to our town.

Dave and Mike would really like to continue with the original plans, maybe white Dogwoods would be good trees. They don’t get any taller than 15ft.

Kenny said he thinks with putting the stones in between the sea grass was a good change from the original plan and having it wide open makes it more appealing.

6. **Update on Bench for Chuck Burghardt – Don Crouch**

Mike Tyrrell resubmitted dates one for July and one for August. Both days were Fridays and softball plays on Friday evenings in July, but will be done in August. We are still waiting for what information they want stated on the bench.

7. **John Gawlak Dedication – Mike Savenelli**

Mike said we discussed naming the new field after John at Pragamann Park. What steps do we need to take to make that happen?

Kenny will look into what the process is for naming a field after an individual.

8. **Community Pool update – Mike Savenelli – Kenny Michaels**

Kenny, Jason, and Mike met with Mayor about re quoting the pool project. The Mayor said this is not the time to move forward with the pool.

Mike asked if this project was going to happen and can they go out to rebid.

The Mayor said no, he didn't want to put out to bid because people will think the project is moving forward.

The ideal time for this project was prior to the pandemic or even during the early stages of the pandemic. Now is a bad time with the construction cost for materials have risen really high and there is a supply shortage.

There was a rally to Save the Pool last week. There were about 40-45 people with signs and a mega phone.

9. **Park Ordinances**

Kenny is looking to add an ordinance that prohibits metal detecting at Town parks to stop the digging. In addition, Kenny would want to prohibit illegal trail blazing in areas such as Tyler Mill. This is similar to metal detecting where town property is being destroyed. Janis Small, Town Attorney, sent copies from various towns ordinances. Kenny distributed the materials to the Rec Commission for review and discussion at the next meeting.

Open Discussion: (2/3 votes required to discuss item)

A request to go into Open Discussion for Community Pool and Pickleball.

Mike made a motion to go into Open Discussion for the two topics. The request was seconded and was unanimously approved.

Jason asked why does the Community Pool have water in it. That water should be drained as it can breathe misquotes and plus a potential danger if some was to get into the park. The water is all black. Kenny will send a request to DPW to drain the pool.

The Town Council approved \$60,000 for Pickleball renovations at Harrison Park. What are the next steps for make the changes happen.

Kenny said he needs to talk with Alison Kapushinski, Engineering, and Rob Baltramaitis, DPW, to have the Engineer Dept put together a bid spec. Kenny said the timeline for this project will probably be in spring of 2022.

Kenny did note that he walked the parking lot with Alison and the parking lot is large enough to accommodate a middle row, which will allow for more parking.

Directors Report: Ken Michaels

Current Parks and Recreation Projections/Maintenance/Facilities

Open Space User Meeting

There is a disconnect with the Mountain Bikers and Conservation Commission. Kenny is looking to bring groups together to have an open discussion. The Mayor, Police Dept, and people from each group using Tyler Mill was at the meeting. Everyone knows Tyler Mill is a gem to have and they don't want to make major changes to Tyler Mill. The Mountain Bikers would like a little more of a voice. Kenny suggested a Trail User Group be formed and have a meeting with the different users of Tyler Mill. The Committee would develop a process on how to add a trail, if possible. They would submit a proposal and that would be reviewed to see if there could be potential soil erosion or an impact to the Inland / Wetlands.

Kenny is reaching out to different people to be representatives. The group would be about 4-5 people. If the User Groups needs to meet more often that can be done.

Mike said having the color coding for Kenny's report is extremely helpful. Kenny is trying to get this report to ahead of time so everyone can review and then only discuss the items that need to be discussed.

The concrete at Doolittle Park was poured and two tension tightening rebar was done 7 days apart. All rebar is gone now, in another 14 days painting and then fencing will be done.

The Mask policy was changed by the town and aligns with the State's policy.

- Parks and Recreation HVAC Gym 2 **Update: Awaiting Sprinkler/Smoke Alarm sensor to be replaced. Lift has been delivered, once sensor replaced, both units should be up and running in the gymnasiums for AC.**
- Doolittle Park Tennis Court project began on April 15, with the removal of the fence, posts, post for tennis nets. The contractor, RS Site and Sports estimated a two month completion time on the project weather permitting. Alison Kapushinski, Town Engineer is the lead on this project and has been extremely helpful and great to work with on this project. I have been in contact with Steve Baker, Athletic Director at Lyman Hall since last summer in coordination with this project as well so he can plan accordingly for the Lyman Hall Tennis Season. **UPDATE: Process has been put down and grading has begun. Contractor is currently awaiting the shipment of the piping for the drainage being installed around the tennis courts and the tendons for the base of the court. From my conversation with Alison in engineering, there is a shipping backlog on these materials coming up from the south. The contractor has been in communication with Alison in engineering with updates. UPDATE: The post tension concrete has been poured and the tension was done the day after pour and second done 7 days after the first. The concrete has to sit 30 days to cure then can be painted. Drainage and fencing to be done during the curing period. Anticipated project completion date weather permitting mid July.**
- Worked with Rob Baltramaitis, Director of Public Works and I have recently put together the bid specifications for Community Lake Baseball Field Fence Replacement. Anticipating the bid to go out in early May for the project. This project increase the height of the current back stop, replace the fencing fabric infant of the current dugouts and increase the height of the fencing down the right field line. This will alleviate many of the foul balls currently heading over the existing fencing and hitting cars in the parking lot and would alleviate the amount of fall balls bouncing close into the new on ramp on the merit parkway. **UPDATE: Recent conversation with Rob at PW, bid has been sent to purchasing and awaiting the bid to be posted. UPDATE: The bid is still awaiting to be posted. Purchasing is short staffed down 2 buyers. Spoke to Sal in purchasing. Most likely going out beginning of July. Would be a good time to complete as the LL season will have concluded and will be ready for fall baseball.**
- Wallace Park Playground border and surfacing. Been working with Rob at PW to get this on their schedule before the end of the budget year. If the job cannot be done before the budget year concludes, Parks and Recreation will purchase the surfacing and have it stored at PW so the job can be completed over the summer.
- Currently working with Rob at PW, Alison in Engineering, Erin in Environmental Planning and Mary Heffernon of the conservation commission to install the Urban Oasis Pollinator Garden at Grand St. Park. I will be reaching out to the Assessor's office to find the owner of the Danvers

building on Grand St. as the project will encroach the property line to the building, and discuss the project and see if we can get the support to extend the garden to the building. The garden would be set up to the left of the mural that is currently painted on the building. **UPDATE: Met with GM of the Danvers Building Alex Drozd. Gave us full permission to enhance the park with the pollinator garden allowing us to come up to the building to plant. Conservation Commission (Mary Heffernon) and Erin O’Haire would be purchasing the plantings. Awaiting PW to get into their schedule to complete work. With the window to plant for the season closing, this may have to wait until the planting season in the fall.**

- Lufbury Pavilion – With the Pavilion replacement in the 2021-2022 budget, we should revisit discussion on the new pavilion and potential site for relocation. Possibility of moving closer to the restrooms or on the east edge of the former baseball field.

Programs

• **Updated Summer Playground Numbers**

Yalesville/Mary Fritz	Session 1: 101 FULL	Session 2: 101 FULL
Moses Y Beach	Session 1: 82 FULL	Session 2: 82 FULL
Stevens	Session 1: 101 FULL	Session 2: 100 FULL

UPDATE: Summer Pre School Camps Tiny Bubbles/Pop Shots

Tiny Bubbles Mon, Wed, Fri – 18 FULL	NEW 3rd Class – 18 FULL
Tues/Thurs – 18 FULL	
Pop Shots Mon, Wed, Fri – 18 FULL	Tues/Thurs – 18 FULL

Spring 2021 128 Programs offered. As of May 11, 2021 we have 1,481 participants registered for 114 programs (14 have been canceled).

UPDATE: FINAL SPRING 2021 Programs

19 Canceled Activities

128 Activities Ran

147 Total Activities (87% success rate)

Due to low enrollment and lack of teams, we had to cancel the Men’s Summer Adult Basketball League. We will be bringing back this summer our Adult Open Gym Volleyball for Friday Nights.

Ulbrich Boys and Girls Club will be hosting the Annual Mike Small Summer Basketball League at the Parks and Recreation Department this summer. High School Summer Basketball League

On Monday June 7, 2021 the Town of Wallingford sent out a town wide memo updating the Towns policy on mask wearing in public buildings. The town will be following the Executive Order 12A stating people who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear a face mask into the building. Employees/Participants can continue to wear a face mask if they like. Employees/Participants who are not fully vaccinated and who cannot maintain a safe social distance of approximately 6ft from each other must wear a face mask. The Parks and Recreation Department will follow the DPH Guidance for indoor sports for activities in the gymnasium.

Next Commission Meeting – Wednesday, August 11, 2021 @ 8:00 AM

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:18 a.m. by Dave Gelo and seconded by Steve Rossacci

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Barillaro, Sr Clerk
Wallingford Parks and Recreation